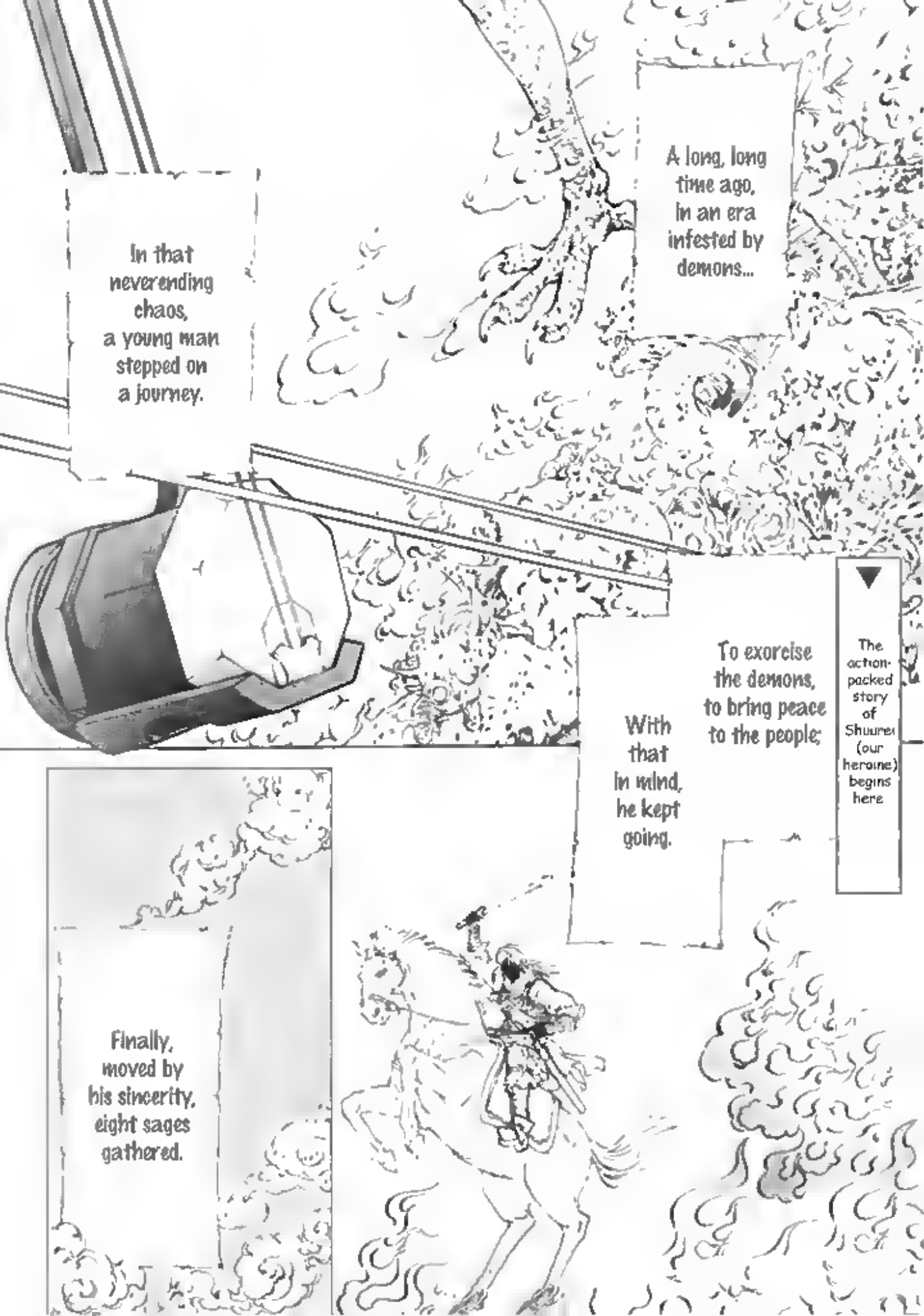
SAIUNKOKU
MONOGATARI
WRITTEN BY YUKINO SAI
ILLUSTRATED BY YURA KAIRI

SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI

CHAPTER 01

Scanner	PPS
Translator	Tnarcheska
Editor	Sakurinha
Qc	Evenstar


A long, long time ago, in an era infested by demons...
In that neverending chaos, a young man stepped on a journey.
To exorcise the demons, to bring peace to the people;
With that in mind, he kept going.
The action-packed story of Shuurei (our heroine) begins here
Finally, moved by his sincerity, eight sages gathered.

Blue, red, green, yellow, white, black, brown and purple.
Named by the colors, they aided the young man with their mysterious powers and were later known as the 'Saihasen'
He became the first emperor of Saiunkoku.
That young man's name is Sougen...
With the wit of the 8 sages, he laid the foundation of his empire, and brought light to the people.

But the palace he'd built for the sages, now known as Sentougen, still stands at a corner of the Imperial City.
After Sougen's death, the 8 sages disappeared.
ALTHOUGH THE EIGHT SAGES HAD DISAPPEARED,
IT'S BELIEVED THAT THEY CONTINUE TO LIVE AMONG THE PEOPLE.
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY ARE STILL WITH US TODAY!
ALRIGHT, THAT'S IT FOR THE STORY OF SAIUNKOKU.

HEY, SHUUREI-SENSE!!
HM? YES?
IS THE SENTOUGEN STILL IN THE PALACE TODAY?
YUP. EVEN THOUGH IT'S BEEN RENAMED AS 'SENTOUZEN', IT STILL EXIST IN THE IMPERIAL CITY. THAT'S WHAT SEIRAN TOLD ME.
HAS SHUUREI-SENSEI SEEN IT?
KNOCK KNOCK
MISS,
BUT ONLY MALES CAN DO SO.
THOUGH IF YOU TAKE THE IMPERIAL EXAMS, YOU CAN ENTER.
UNFORTUNATELY, NO. EVEN THOUGH I'LL LIKE TO, IT'S STILL IN THE IMPERIAL CITY.

WAH!!
WAH! IT'S SEIRAN!
SEIRAN!
IT'S ALRIGHT. WE'RE DISMISSED FOR THE DAY.
ARE YOU STILL HAVING CLASSES? SORRY, BUT MAY I INTERRUPT FOR A WHILE?
LET'S PLAY WAR GAMES!
SORRY, I'M A LITTLE BUSY TODAY.
Next time then, next time
Eh?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE NOW, SEIRAN?
Bye, Shurei-sensei!
WELL, YES, BUT ...
SHOULDN'T YOU BE ON DUTY AT THE IMPERIAL COURTS TODAY?

MSS ...
WHAT ...?
I HATE TO SAY THIS BUT...
CAN YOU RETURN HOME IMMEDIATELY?
LISTEN, SEIRAN!
AFTER THIS, I HAVE A PRETTY WELL-PAID ASSIGNMENT WAITING FOR ME!
JUST WAIT AND SEE!
WE CAN AFFORD TO EAT BETTER FOR TONIGHT'S DINNER!
EH?
A GUEST?
MINE?
HEY, SEIRAN, WITH A PERSONAL GUARD ACCOMPANYING HIM, WHAT RANK DOES THIS VISITOR HAS?
SIGH ...

IT'S WHEAT AGAIN!! WHEAT!!
AND I THOUGHT WE COULD BUY RICE THIS MONTH!!
U—WAH!
sob sob
TREMBLE
COMPLETE, TOTAL, ABSOLUTE MESS.
WHAT A CHORE. IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF HIM THAT MY PLANS ARE IN A MESS NOW.
WHAT TO DO, SEIRAN! THERE'S NO INCOME AGAIN TODAY!!
All Gone!
AND IT'S SUCH A HARD-TO-FIND, WELL-PAYING JOB, TOO!! ALL GONE NOW!
I'M GOING TO BE MOCKED BY THAT LINE AGAIN!!!
"LOOK AT THAT LINE AND STOP DECEIVING YOURSELF."
"HEH, I'M NOT RICE..."
THAT LITTLE LINE IN THE CENTRE OF THE WHEAT...
THE LINE THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHEAT AND RICE. TODAY...
M-MISS... PEOPLE ARE WATCHING ...
I'll hate that guest FOREVER!!!
AH!! I Can't believe this!! I can't!!

WHEAT CAN'T SPEAK!
IT'S OK. I CAN ALWAYS FIND MORE PART-TIME WORK.
ALRIGHT?
PLEASE, DON'T CRY ANYMORE. I LIKE WHEAT, TOO. IT'S VERY NUTRITIOUS.
sob
HALT!
IF ANY STRANGE RUMOURS START, IT WILL AFFECT YOUR JOB PROSPECTS...
whispers
SEIRAN ...
I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING TROUBLE FOR YOU!! IF ONLY MY STUPID FATHER WERE A LITTLE MORE DEPENDABLE, THIS WON'T HAPPEN.
UWAH!
WAH!
reduced salary
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY OUR SERVANTS, THEY'VE ALL LEFT...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE BOTHERED BY SUCH THINGS...
WITH YOUR SALARY, YOU COULD LEAD A COMFORTABLE LIFE BY YOURSELF.
BUT YOU'VE USED ALL THAT UP BY STAYING WITH US AND HELPING OUT WITH THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.
AND ...

SINCE THEN, I'VE DECIDED TO REPAY YOUR KINDNESS WITH MY LIFE.
13 YEARS AGO, MASTER ADOPTED ME WITHOUT ANY KNOWLEDGE OF MY PAST.
SEIRAN HAD NEVER MINDED OUR SITUATION, OR SAID ANYTHING LIKE "IF ONLY I COULD WORK FOR A BETTER HOUSEHOLD".
BUT, IF YOU CAN FIND A BETTER WORK ELSEWHERE, PLEASE DO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO MIND US, SEIRAN.
Please, forgive this useless father-child duo!
MISS ...
Grab
sob
I HATE BEING POOR!!!
ARGH!! WHY [illegible] THIS POOR EVEN WITH OUR STATUS?! I'VE HAD ENOUGH!!
MASTER AND MISS DO NOT NEED TO BOTHER THEMSELVES WITH THIS.
I'LL ALWAYS STAY BY THE BOTH OF YOU.
SEIRAN ...!

Approximately 600 years ago, the king dictated for the nobles governing each province to change their family names. "By the Emperor's wish, the 8 governors and their provinces are to be named by a color."
Saiunkoku has always been split into 8 provinces, blue, red, green, yellow, white, black, brown, and purple.
At the same time, the commoners were forbidden to share the same surname as the 8 noble families. In other words, those who have the surname of one of the 8 colors must be part of the aristocracy.
WELL, TRUE.
ESPECIALLY THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE KOU FAMILY, SECOND IN STATUS ONLY TO THE RAN FAMILY, MISS KOU SHUURE!...
SHE SHOULD BE LIVING A LUXURIOUS LIFE, TENDED TO BY MAIDS BUT...
DAMN IT! THE WALL HAS FALLEN AGAIN!!
I FIX THIS BIT, AND THAT BIT FALLS. I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!
AH ...
THIS IS THE REALITY ...

IT'LL BE TROUBLESOME IF WE DON'T REPAIR THE ROOF SOON.
JUST MAINTAINING THIS WASTEFULLY HUGE MANSION TAKES A GOOD PORTION OUT OF FATHER'S SALARY.
THE ACCOUNTS ARE STILL GOING TO BE CRIMSON THIS MONTH, AND RICE IS STILL A DREAM...
THE VISITOR WHO TOOK AWAY THE ONLY DREAM (EATING RICE) WE HAVE... WHO IS IT?
OH, YES, SEIRAN...
SHAO... TAISHI...?
ONE OF THE 3 ELDERS ...
THAT'S ...

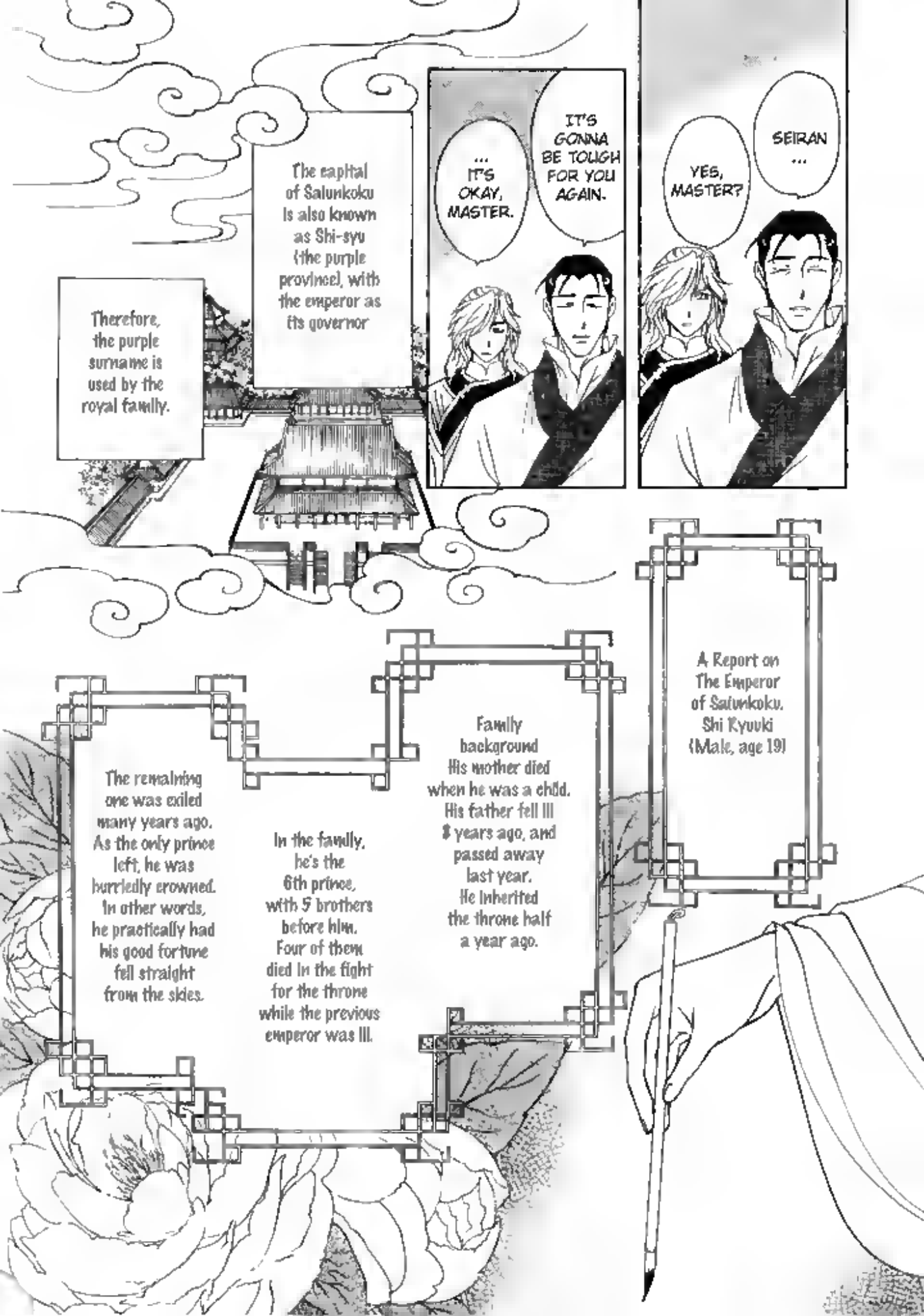
VR
SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING.
MASTER, SHUUREI-DONO HAS RETURNED.
COME IN.
SEIRAN, TOO.
YES?
MY APOLOGIES FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING.
I HOPE TAISHI WILL FORGIVE ME,
IF THERE IS ANY REMISS IN MY COURTESY.
CLANK
I'M SORRY FOR BEING ABSENT WHILE SHAO-TAISHI WAITED.
SHUUREI HAS RETURNED SAFELY.

THIS IS SHAO-TAISHI!
PLEASE, RISE, SHUUREI-DONO.
THERE, LIFT YOUR HEAD.
slight movement
WHY WOULD SUCH A HIGH-RANKED FIGURE BE VISITING ME?
THE FAMED PRIME MINISTER WHO'VE ASSISTED THE PREVIOUS EMPEROR.
CURRENTLY GUIDING THE CURRENT YOUNG EMPEROR AS ONE OF THE 3 ELDERS. HIS STATUS IS SECOND ONLY TO THE EMPEROR HIMSELF...

GODS, FATHER!!
THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO TREAT A GUEST!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! YOU'RE TREATING THE LEADER OF ALL COURT OFFICIALS LIKE A BEAST OF BURDEN!!
FU NTS
SORRY, BUT CAN YOU BREW ME A CUP OF TEA?
MY STOMACH'S FEELING A LITTLE COOL FROM ALL THAT WATER I'VE BEEN DRINKING.
THIS MAY SEEM A LITTLE SUDDEN ...
YES?
BUCKET?!!
AH!
WELL, THEN ...
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST ASK SHUUREI-DONO TO DO.
AND SEIRAN-DONO, TOO.
AH... THE DELICIOUS TEA AND HOMEMADE BUNS HAVE REVIVED ME.
YES.
WITH A DAUGHTER LIKE THIS, SHOUKA-DONO MUST BE A VERY HAPPY MAN.

EH?
!
IT CAN'T BE...
500 ...
50 BRONZE ...
HOW MUCH WOULD THAT BE...
I'LL PAY THIS MUCH TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION.
IF YOU AGREE,
STARE
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON THESE FIVE OLD, WRINKLED FINGERS OF MINE.
HUM.
A CHANCE FOR ME TO NO LONGER WORRY ABOUT RICE...
5... SILVER, WILL IT?
PERHAPS, THIS IS...

STUNNED
500 GOLD!
DING DONG
I'll do it! I'll do anything!!
decides immediately
shiver
500 ...
GOLD ...
SHUUREI?
tremble


SEIRAN ...
YES, MASTER?
... IT'S OKAY, MASTER.
IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH FOR YOU AGAIN.
The capital of Saiunkoku is also known as Shi-syu (the purple province), with the emperor as its governor
Therefore, the purple surname is used by the royal family.
A Report on The Emperor of Saiunkoku. Shi Kyuuki (Male, age 19)
Family background His mother died when he was a child. His father fell ill 3 years ago, and passed away last year. He inherited the throne half a year ago.
In the family, he's the 6th prince, with 5 brothers before him. Four of them died in the fight for the throne while the previous emperor was ill.
The remaining one was exiled many years ago. As the only prince left, he was hurriedly crowned. In other words, he practically had his good fortune fell straight from the skies.

EXCEPT FOR ME, LADY KOU.
Scribble Scribble
Private life. It's rumoured that he's gay, sharing his bed with a different male servant each night. He wanders around all day. Nobody knows what he does. Till now, he doesn't have a single concubine.
Political attitude. Zero motivation to work. Zero interest in politics. He never appears at court, leaving everything to his subordinates to worry about.
I'LL LIKE TO ASK SHUUREI-DONO TO BE THE EMPEROR'S CONCUBINE!!
WHAT THE...
NO WONDER THEY ARE PAYING THAT MUCH.
SO, THAT'S HOW OUR EMPEROR IS LIKE.

I CAN'T GET JUST SOME NAIVE WELL-BRED LADY.
GRABS
THERE ISN'T ANYONE ELSE WHO CAN DO THIS...
wibbles
SHAO-TAISHI ...
I NEED SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS LIFE, WITH GOOD MANNERS, INITIATED...
AND IT MUST BE SOMEONE WHO IS UNTEMPTED, AND WILL TRULY CARE FOR HIS MAJESTY!
PLEASE ...
PLEASE, MAKE HIM A PROPER KING!
FATHER IS THE LIBRARIAN FOR THE ARCHIVES. THOUGH IT'S A RATHER HIGH-RANKING POST, HE IS UNINVOLVED IN THE POLITICS.
HAVING LOST TOUCH WITH OUR RELATIVES I'M NOT USEFUL AS A POLITICAL CHESS PIECE, EITHER.
IN ANY CASE, I SEEM TO BE PERFECT FOR REEDUCATING HIS MAJESTY...
EVEN THOUGH I'M LURED INTO THIS BY THAT 500 PIECES OF GOLD...
CAN THIS EMPEROR EVEN BE SAVED??

giggles
PLEASE, HAVE SOME FLORAL TEA.
AH? YES.
CONCUBINE KOU?
THANK YOU, KOURIN.
SHE'S AROUND 13 YEARS OLD, I SUPPOSE.
NAIVE AND CUTE.
demure
demure
AH!
AH!
BE CAREFUL!

OH, CRAP!
KOURIN, CALM DOWN. I'M FINE.
sob sob
I...
I HURT YOU...!
ARE YOU ...
ALRIGHT?
NO, ONLY THAT MY CLOTHES ARE A LITTLE STAINED.
SHUUREI-DONO, ARE YOU INJURED?
WHAT HAPPENED?
SHUNSEI.
PLEASE, DO NOT BLAME KOURIN.
COME, KOURIN. LET'S GO.
I UNDERSTAND.
BUT ...
BUT ...
PLEASE, GET HER TO CALM DOWN.

I UNDERSTAND.
YES... YES!
smile
WHEN YOU STOP CRYING, CAN YOU GET ME ANOTHER CUP OF FLORAL TEA, KOURIN?
SHUNSEI, HOW'S KOURIN?
WELL DONE, SHUURE!-DONO.
I SAVED MY REPUTATION AS A CONCUBINE!!
THADUM
I PASS!
Ah, ha...
OH, STOP IT!
IN THE HAREM, YOUR POPULARITY AS "THE YOUNG MISS OF THE KOU FAMILY" IS RAPIDLY RISING, TOO.
AND, WHAT A PERFECT IMAGE OF A CONCUBINE.
...
AFTER TEARILY SWORE THAT SHE WILL SERVE YOU ALL HER LIFE.
SHE CALMED DOWN.

YOU'VE HEARD FROM SHAO-TAISHI, HAVEN'T YOU?
BEING A CONCUBINE IS LIKE A HUGE JOKE.
THIS HANDKERCHIEF ...
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL EMBROIDERY.
A PIECE OF CLOTH LIKE THIS IS ENOUGH TO FEED YOU FOR A MONTH. BUT THEY ARE USING IT AS A DISHCLOTH HERE.
DAILY CROCKERY ARE SO LUXURIOUS THAT IT'S LIKE I'M IN ANOTHER WORLD.
MY HEAD HURTS ...
DETERMINED
BUT I'M HERE TO WORK!
SINCE I'VE TAKEN THIS UP, I MUST DO A GOOD JOB!
I'M JUST HERE TO EDUCATE HIM, AFTER ALL!
WITH A TIME LIMIT, A GOOD PAY AND A GOOD GUARANTEE,
PLUS, SINCE HIS MAJESTY IS GAY, I DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS AT NIGHT.
SHUUREI-DONO ...

THE FIFTH DAY.
BUT, WHAT MUST I DO TO MEET THE EMPEROR?
I'VE BEEN HERE FOR ALMOST...
...
AND HIS MAJESTY HASN'T MET SHUUREI-DONO YET.
IF THEY DON'T MEET, THIS PLAN IS USELESS.
One of the 3 elders. Song Taifu.
BREAK OUR BONES? WHY USE SUCH AN ANNOYING EXPRESSION?
THAT CAN'T HAPPEN! OR WE MIGHT AS WELL BREAK OUR OLD BONES NOW!
NAUSEOUS
WELL, THAT MAKES SENSE.
Another of the 3 elders. Sa Taiho.
IN ANY CASE, JUST ONCE.
WE NEED TO ARRANGE FOR THOSE YOUNGSTERS, A MEETING OF DESTINY.

AH... HOW RELAXING, KOUYUU.
TWITCH
A MEETING OF DESTINY?!
I ORIGINALLY THOUGHT IT'S A PRETTY GOOD JOB, TO BE HIS MAJESTY'S GUARD.
YOU WERE FORCED TO TRANSFER HERE UNDER SHAO-TAISHI'S REQUEST, WEREN'T YOU?
BUT YOU HAVEN'T MET HIS MAJESTY YET?
5
4
NO MATTER HOW BRILLIANT THE MIND IS, IF THERE ISN'T A CHANCE TO EXERCISE IT, IT WILL STILL RUST.
3
WE ARE BOTH THE CREAM OF THE CROP AMONG THE YOUNGER OFFICIALS, WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF US.
2
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE ARE REDUCED TO BEING ORNAMENTAL OFFICIALS.

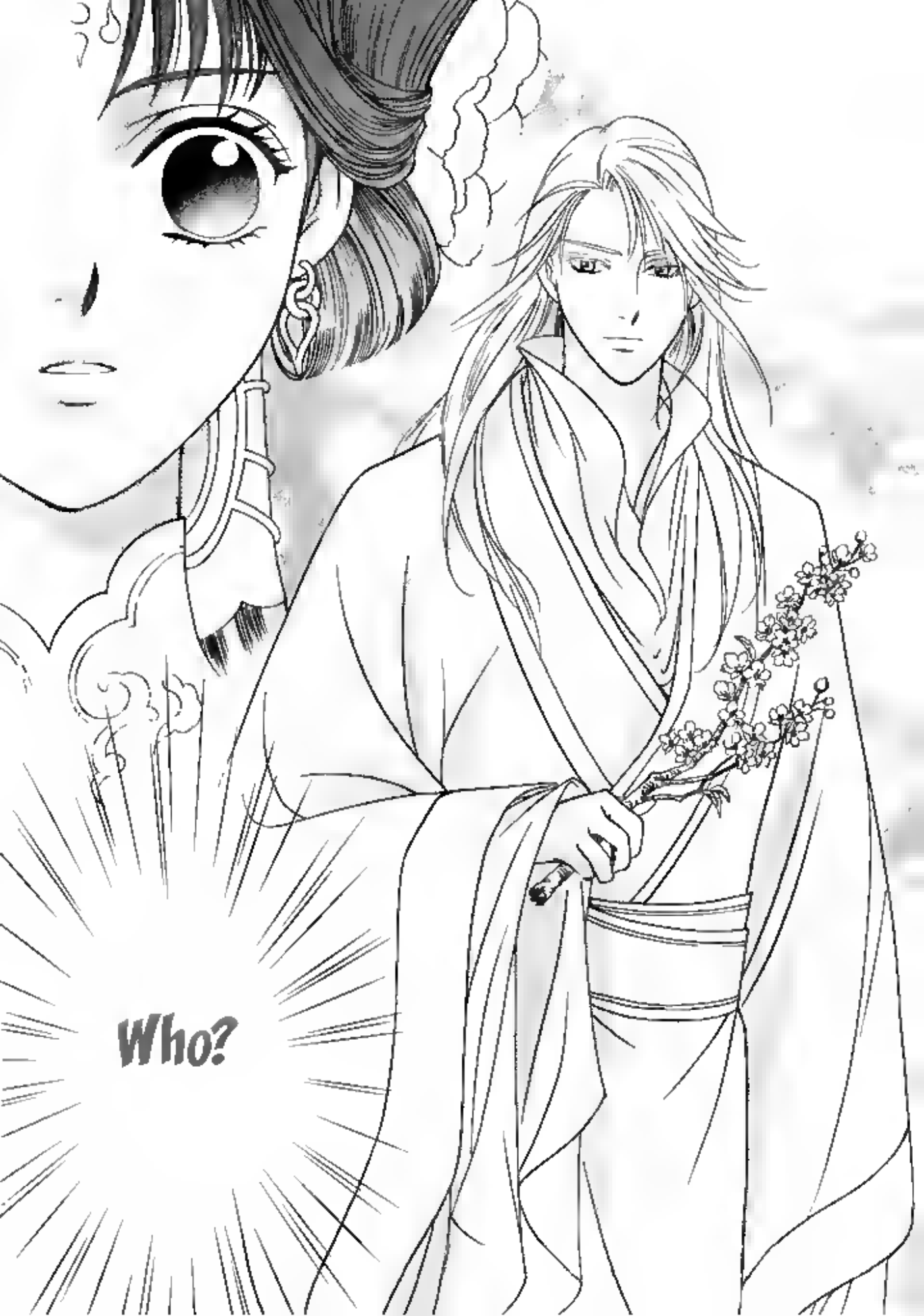
SHUT THAT EVER-MOVING MOUTH OF YOURS, RAN SHUUEI!
1
TRAGIC! COMING HERE TO ACCOMPANY THE EMPEROR.
IT'S PROBABLY JUST A FARCE FOR DEMOTION.
SNAP
O/ ...
BAM
IF YOU ARE A GUARD, ACT LIKE ONE AND STICK YOURSELF TO THAT STUPID KING!! ANNOYING JERK!
STOP KIDDING! WHY ARE YOU HERE ANYWAY?
VERY GOOD. WHY NOT YOU JOIN THE IMPERIAL GUARD, TOO?

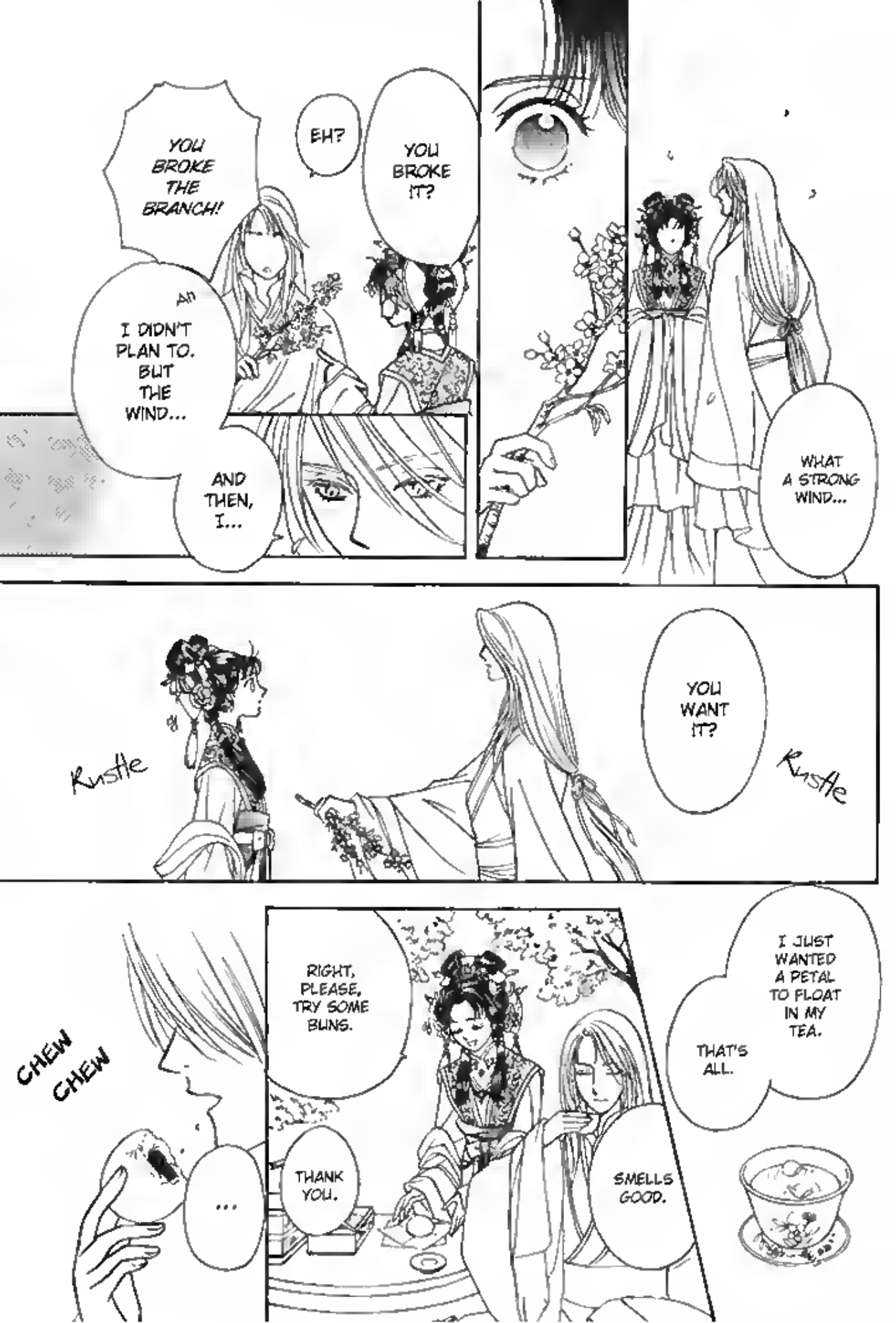
GO SOMEWHERE ELSE TO PASS YOUR TIME!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE IS.
SO, I'M JUST AS FREE AS YOU ARE. Ha ha ha!
I'VE DONE ABOUT EVERYTHING TO PASS TIME FOR THIS MONTH.
I'm about done exploring the harem, too..
HURRY! GET LOST NOW!!
OH DEAR, HOW CAN YOU SAY THIS TO YOUR GOOD FRIEND...
WHO IS...
WELL ...
IT'S NOT JUST A MONTH. IT'S BEEN MORE THAN A MONTH!
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING IN MORE THAN A MONTH!
KOUYUU, IT'S SOMETHING THAT I'VE DECIDED.
ARE YOU GOING TO REJECT ME?
I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T WANT TO.
BAM
THAT STUPID BOSS OF MINE!!
BANG
THAT'S WHAT HE SAYS! BUT IF I DON'T EVEN SEE THAT STUPID KING, I CAN'T LEARN ANYTHING!
TAKE IT ALL AS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE! TRY YOUR BEST!

A PLAN?!
IT'S JUST A CONCUBINE!
HEY, I HEARD THAT SHAO-TAISHI CAME UP WITH A PLAN.
FAILURE
Speechless
YOU SHOULD SAY THAT TO THE MINISTER YOURSELF.
THAT'S YOUR OWN VALUE SYSTEM!
IT'S A SHAME THAT YOU DON'T KNOW THE JOYS OF SPENDING THE NIGHT WITH A WOMAN.
YOUR HATE FOR WOMENKIND IS STILL SO DEEP.
WHAT? YOUR SUBORDINATE IN THE IMPERIAL ARMY?
YEAH. A RECENT CASE OF BEING SPECIALLY PROMOTED.
WASTING YOUR TIME ON WOMEN IS A TOTAL LOSS!

HIS NAME IS SHI SEIRAN.
OH, AND HE'S THE SERVANT FROM THE NEW CONCUBINE'S FAMILY.
I WENT WITH HIM A FEW DAYS AGO TO SAY HI TO CONCUBINE KOU.
YOU BASTARD, HAVE YOU ALREADY STARTED ON CONCUBINE KOU?
HE'S ESPECIALLY RECOMMENDED BY SHAO-TAISHI.
SHI SEIRAN, IS IT?
WHILE HE'S VERY CAPABLE, I HAVE NO IDEA WHY HE'S STILL A LOW-RANKING OFFICER.
WELL, IF SHE WASN'T SHOUKA-SAMA'S DAUGHTER, I WOULD CONSIDER IT.
SHOUKA-SAMA?

DO YOU WANT THIS?
UM, YEAH ...
I... I CAN'T REACH...
HEY!
HERE I GO!
JUMP
JUMP
THUMP
EH?
Whoosh
Whoosh
AH!

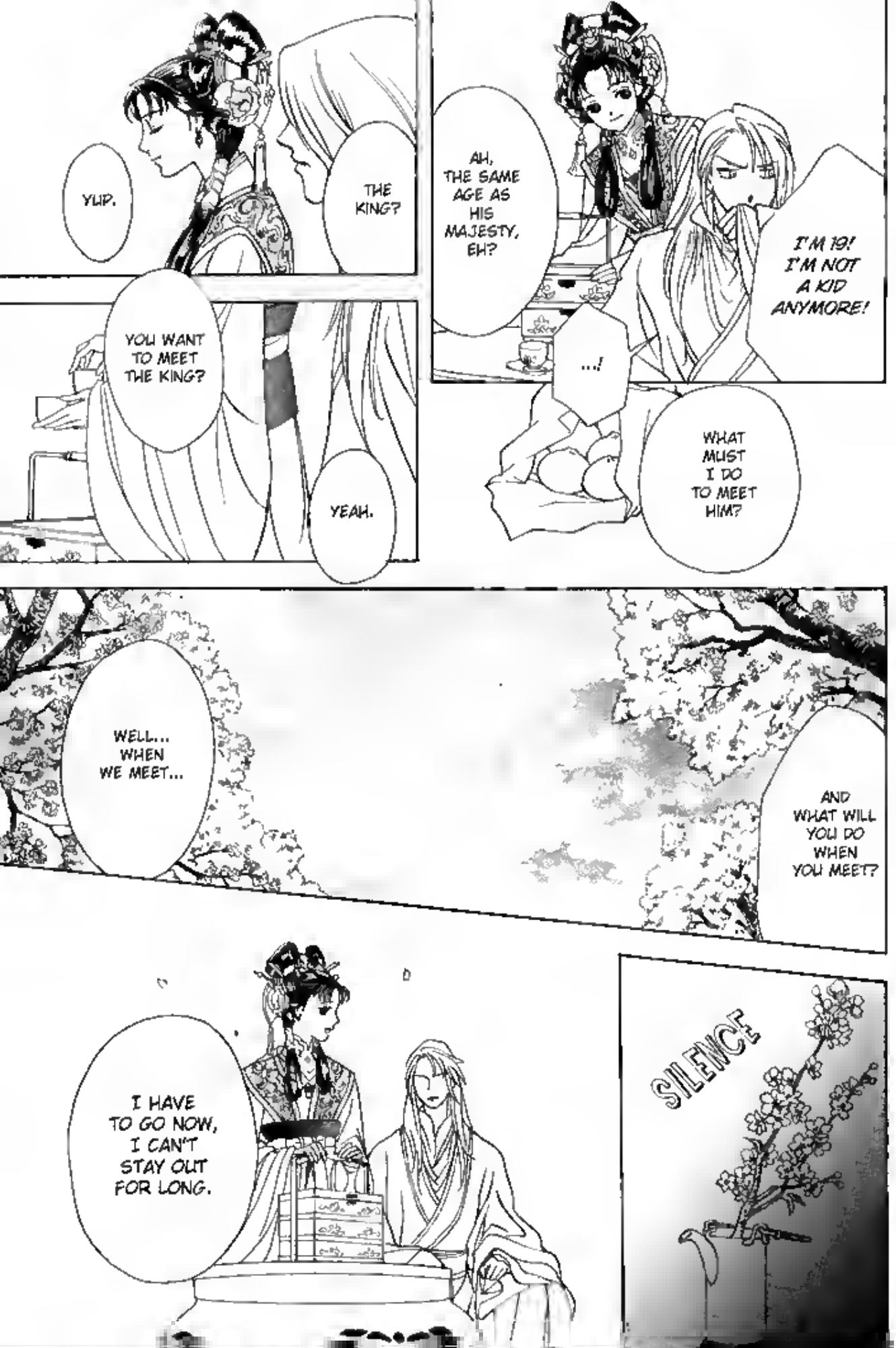

Who?


YOU BROKE THE BRANCH!
EH?
YOU BROKE IT?
AH
I DIDN'T PLAN TO. BUT THE WIND...
AND THEN, I...
WHAT A STRONG WIND...
Rustle
YOU WANT IT?
Rustle
CHEW CHEW
...
RIGHT, PLEASE, TRY SOME BUNS.
THANK YOU.
SMELLS GOOD.
I JUST WANTED A PETAL TO FLOAT IN MY TEA.
THAT'S ALL.

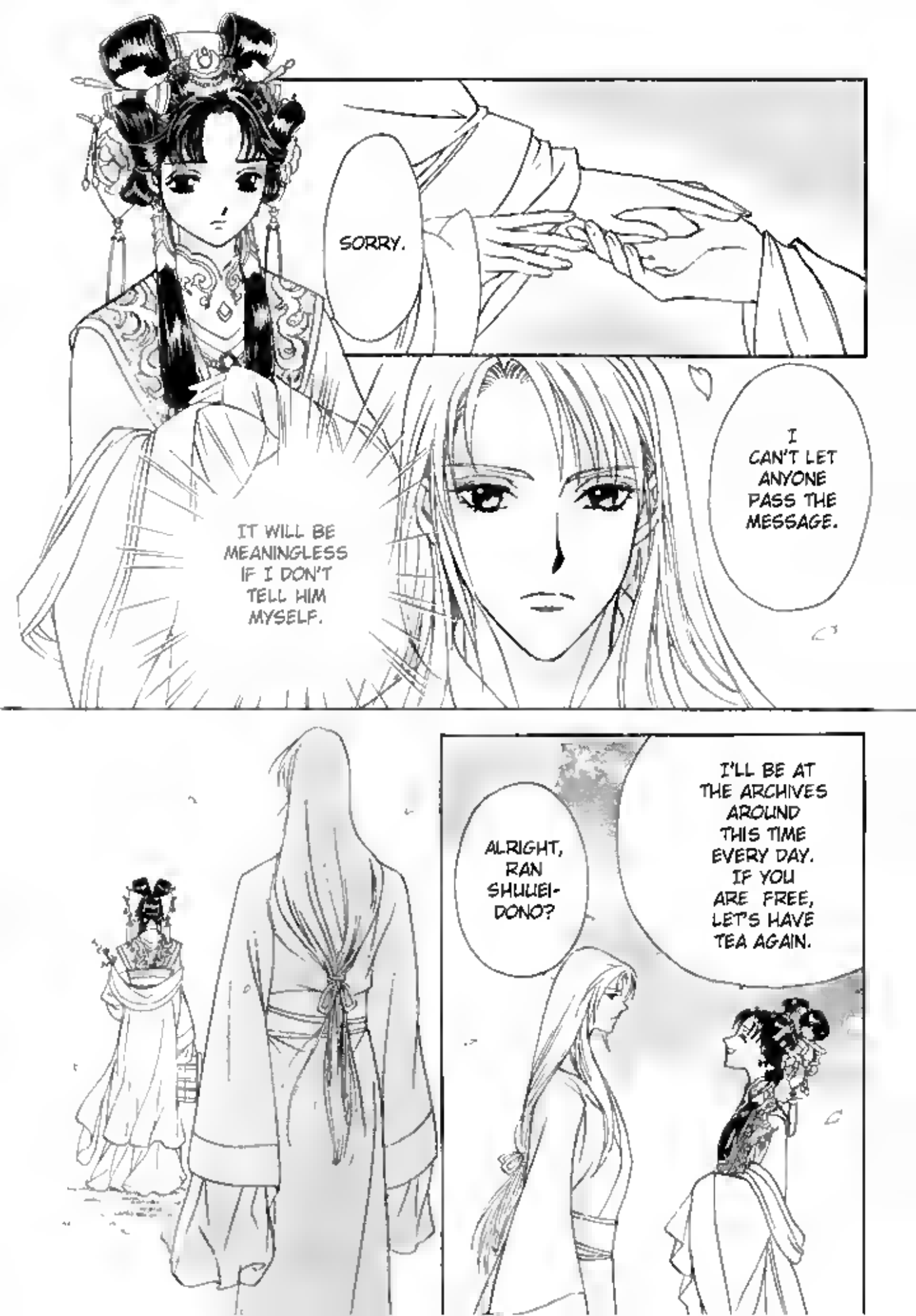
(Note- He wanted to say "Yo", which is the royal pronoun kings used to refer to themselves.)

RAN SHUUEI ...
EAT EAT EAT
THAT'S...
YES! I AM RAN SHUUEI.
AH, YOU ARE FROM THE RAN FAMILY?
RAN ...
RAN?
THUMP
WHAT IS SHOUKA'S DAUGHTER DOING HERE?
Ye. Ah!
OH... RAN SHUUEI-DONO... IS IT?
rustle
... ...
SITS
EH? REALLY? HOW STRANGE!
Oh, oh, oh
SERVING THE HAREM? SHOUKA, TOO...
THAT... WELL... TO SERVE THE HAREM ...

touch
DO YOU LIKE IT? OR DO YOU HATE IT?
THUMP
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS... ARE BEAUTIFUL.
I LIKE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ...
BUT THE TREES AT MY HOUSE NO LONGER BLOOM.
VERY MUCH.
...!
WHY ...
DO YOU SEE THEM WITH SUCH SAD EYES?
YOU'RE EATING TOO MUCH!! GIVE THAT TO ME! I'LL PACK THE REST FOR YOU.
SNATCH
AH!
AND YOU'VE GOT CRUMBS ALL OVER YOUR FACE, TOO. WHAT A KID!
WAIT A MINUTE! HOW MANY HAVE YOU EATEN? ARE YOU GOING TO KILL YOUR STOMACH?
EH?
NO LONGER BLOOM?
YEAH. AND IT'S NOT JUST THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS.


YUP.
THE KING?
AH, THE SAME AGE AS HIS MAJESTY, EH?
I'M 19! I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE!
YOU WANT TO MEET THE KING?
YEAH.
...!
WHAT MUST I DO TO MEET HIM?
WELL... WHEN WE MEET...
AND WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOU MEET?
I HAVE TO GO NOW, I CAN'T STAY OUT FOR LONG.
SILENCE

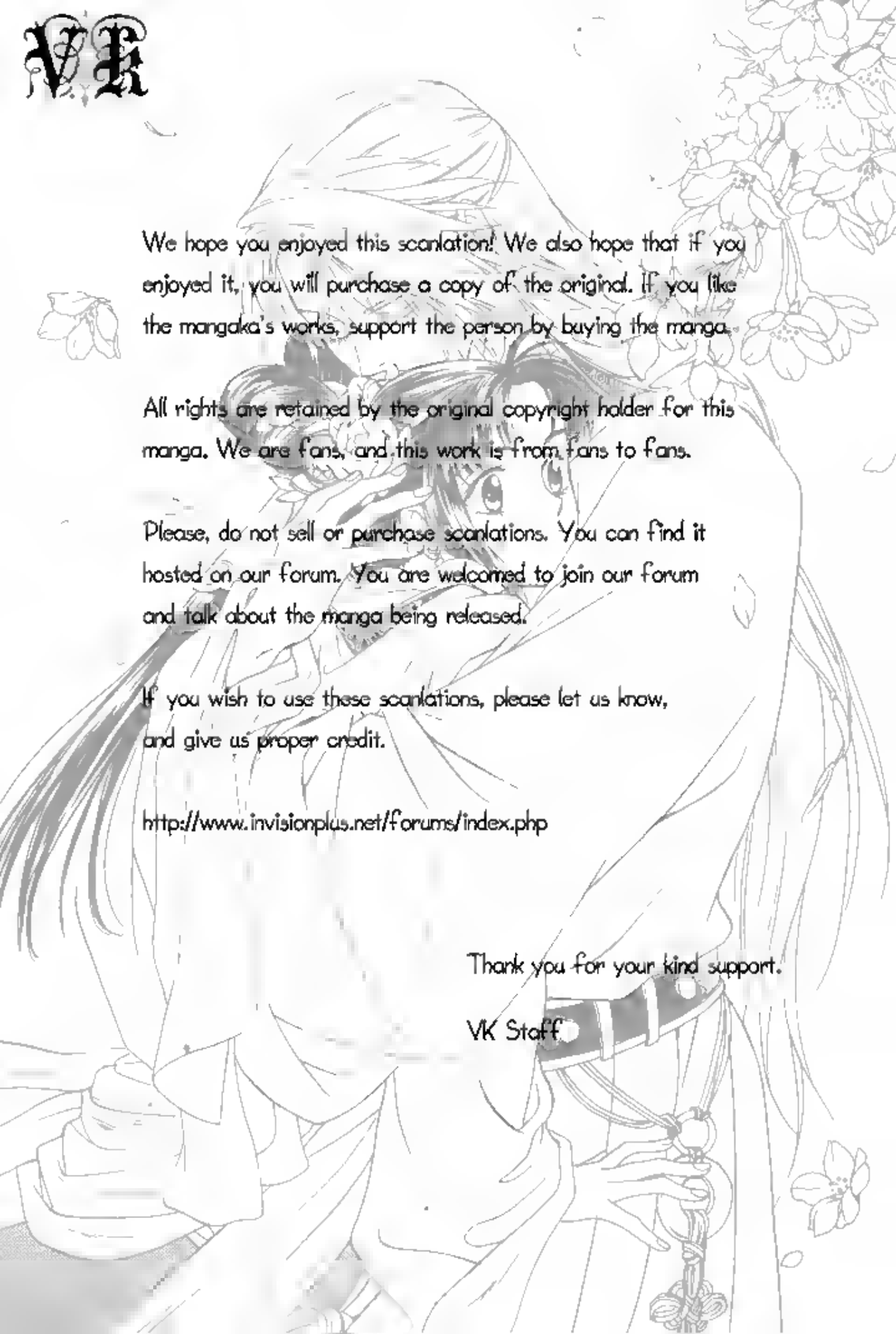
WH...
WHAT?
THAT ...
I HAVEN'T... HEARD YOUR ANSWER.
I...
I KNOW THE EMPEROR VERY WELL. I CAN PASS THE MESSAGE FOR YOU.
WHAT DO YOU DO... WHEN YOU SEE HIM?


SORRY.
I CAN'T LET ANYONE PASS THE MESSAGE.
IT WILL BE MEANINGLESS IF I DON'T TELL HIM MYSELF.
I'LL BE AT THE ARCHIVES AROUND THIS TIME EVERY DAY. IF YOU ARE FREE, LET'S HAVE TEA AGAIN.
ALRIGHT, RAN SHUREI-DONO?

IT'S NOT LIKE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SA AND I.
THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED PLUM TEA AND PLUM BUNS SHOULD STOP MUTTERING.
Rustle Rustle
THEY'VE MET ALREADY?
AND WE SPENT SO MUCH TIME PLANNING THAT "DESTINED MEETING", TOO.
WELL ...
ONLY YOU WOULD COME UP WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS, YOUR MARTIAL FREAK!
DON'T YOU FIND IT VERY EXCITING? THE ADRENALINE RUSHING THROUGH YOU... MEETING UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, WON'T ANYONE MISTAKE THAT FEELING FOR LOVE?
DIDN'T YOU COME UP WITH THAT MARTIAL ARTS DISPLAY CRAP AND REFUSE TO BUDGE?
DIDN'T YOU SUGGEST PLUM TEA AND BUNS, YOU STUPID OLD FOOL!?
HMPH!!
DON'T WORRY, YOU ARE BOTH STUPID OLD FOOLS.

ABOUT THAT...
DOES LI KOUYUU AND RAN SHUUEI NEED TO...
STAY BY HIS MAJESTY?
UNDER THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, EVEN IF HIS MAJESTY GRANTS IT, THEY WILL PROBABLY JUST REJECT IT WITH A LAUGH.
AND HE WON'T ANYWAY, SINCE NEITHER OF THEM HAVE MET HIM YET.
WILL HE GRANT THEM "FLOWERS"?

AT THIS POINT OF TIME, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I'M HATED BY ANOTHER.
SHAO, YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL ABOUT HOW HE MAY PAY YOU BACK ABOUT THIS.
AND THAT'S THE REASON WHY KOUYUU-DONO IS A LITTLE UPSET RIGHT NOW.
LET US HAVE A GOOD LOOK AT SHUUREI-DONO'S CAPABILITIES, THEN.
The ripples created by this meeting...
(SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI CHO1 / END)



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VK Staff

SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI

CHAPTER 01

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Translator	Tnarcheska
Editor	Cara
Qc	Evenstar

"An overnight talking point! The Struggle of a Poor (?) Lady."

SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI

WRITTEN BY YUKINO SAI
ILLUSTRATED BY YURA KAIRI

CHAPTER 02

Archives.

Located at a quiet corner of the royal palace of Saiunkoku.

Its maintainer is Kou Shouka.

A librarian who doesn't care about central politics, and is concerned only with dust-filled books.

An idle post that hardly anyone knows about.

AIYAH?

THOSE TWO ARE HERE AGAIN.

❖ THE STORY SO FAR ❖

Saiunkoku is made up of 8 provinces. The young emperor, Shi Ryuuki, who has given up on politics from the moment he was throned. Hence, Shuo of the 3 Court Elders invited the poor young lady of the Kou family to be the emperor's concubine (and educator) with the promise of 500 pieces of gold. "I'll do it. I'll do it!" was her immediate answer. She then came to the palace with her manservant, Seiran, and met a young man who called himself Ran Shuuei.

???
A mysterious young man who claimed to be Ran Shuuei. Met Shuurei while she was looking for the emperor in the harem.

Shi Seiran
Adopted to be a manservant of the Kou family 13 years ago. Shuurei's personal guard.

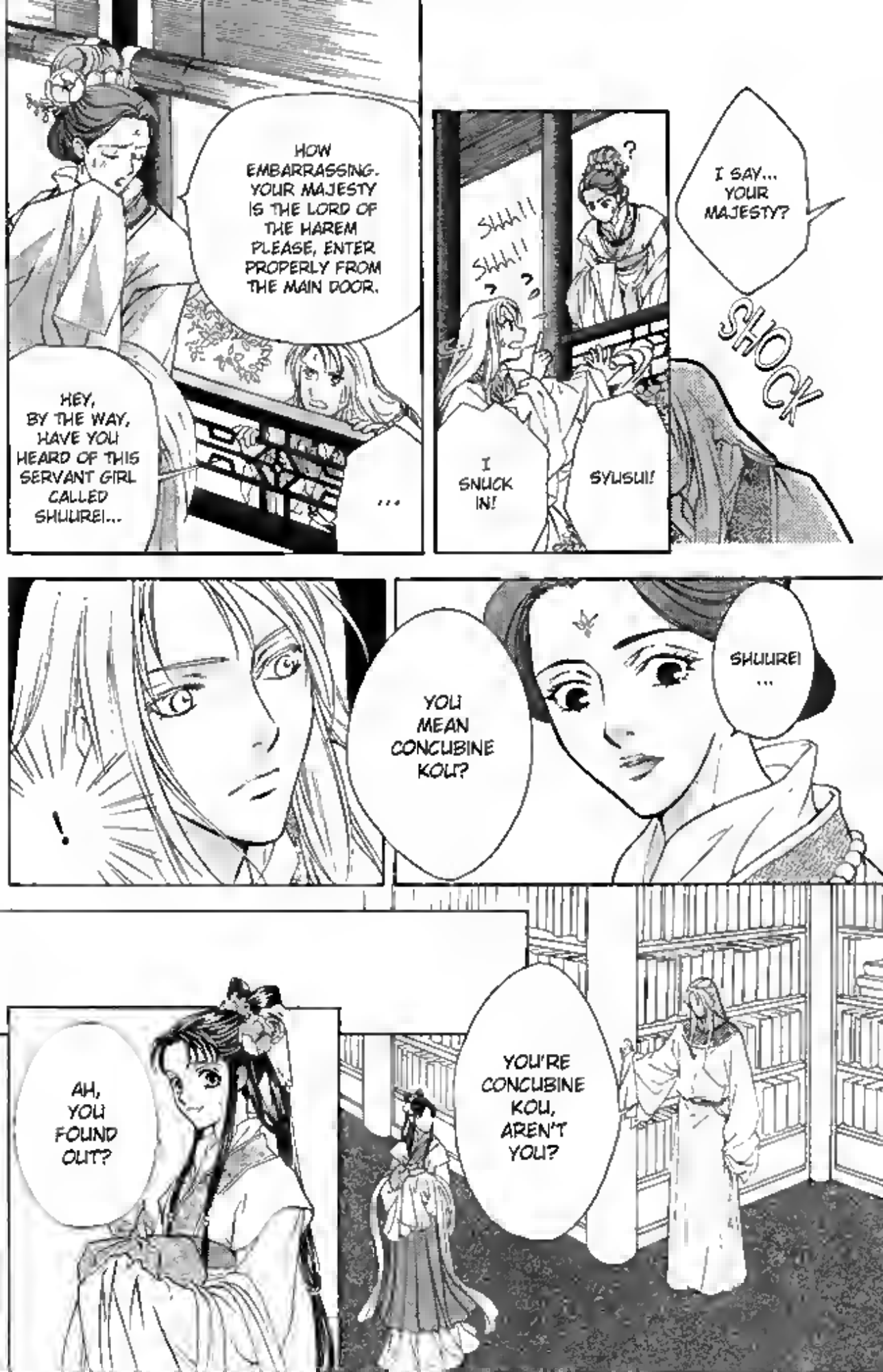
Kou Shuurei
The young Lady of the noble Kou family. Joined the harem as a concubine to support her impoverished family.

Kou Shouka/Shuurei's Father. Head of the Kou family
Li Kouyuu/Academic. Assistant General Secretary
Ran Shuuei/Militarist. General of the Left Imperial Army
Shuo Toushi/One of the 3 Elders

UK scans

WHY IS THE YOUNG LADY OF THE KOU FAMILY SO GOOD AT MAKING SNACKS?
WELL... THAT'S...
YUP.
SHUUREI IS SHOUKA'S DAUGHTER.
HERE, HAVE SOME TEA.
TRUE, THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE THE HANDS OF A LADY.
PROTRUDING JOINTS
WRINKLED SKIN
THESE HANDS?
THEY GOT PRETTIER AFTER I CAME HERE, THOUGH.
HAVING CHORES TO DO EVERYDAY,
IT'S HARD TO KEEP MY HANDS LILY-WHITE AND SMOOTH LIKE THAT OF A LADY'S.
MY FAMILY IS VERY POOR.

SEIRAN?
HE'S BEEN TRANSFERED TO THE LEFT IMPERIAL ARMY TO GUARD HIS MAJESTY. SO, YOU SHOULD SEE HIM AROUND THE CENTRAL PALACE RATHER OFTEN.
HAVE YOU MET HIM BEFORE?
BUT I THINK IT'S FINE, BECAUSE I'M WITH FATHER AND SEIRAN.
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
Hun?
PROUD
HE'S STRONG, GENTLE, INTELLIGENT, AND VERY DEPENDABLE.
SEIRAN'S THE ONLY MANSERVANT WE HAVE LEFT.
IS THAT THE REASON SHE JOINED THE HAREM?
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NOBILITY, SHE'S POOR...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE BEEN THERE.

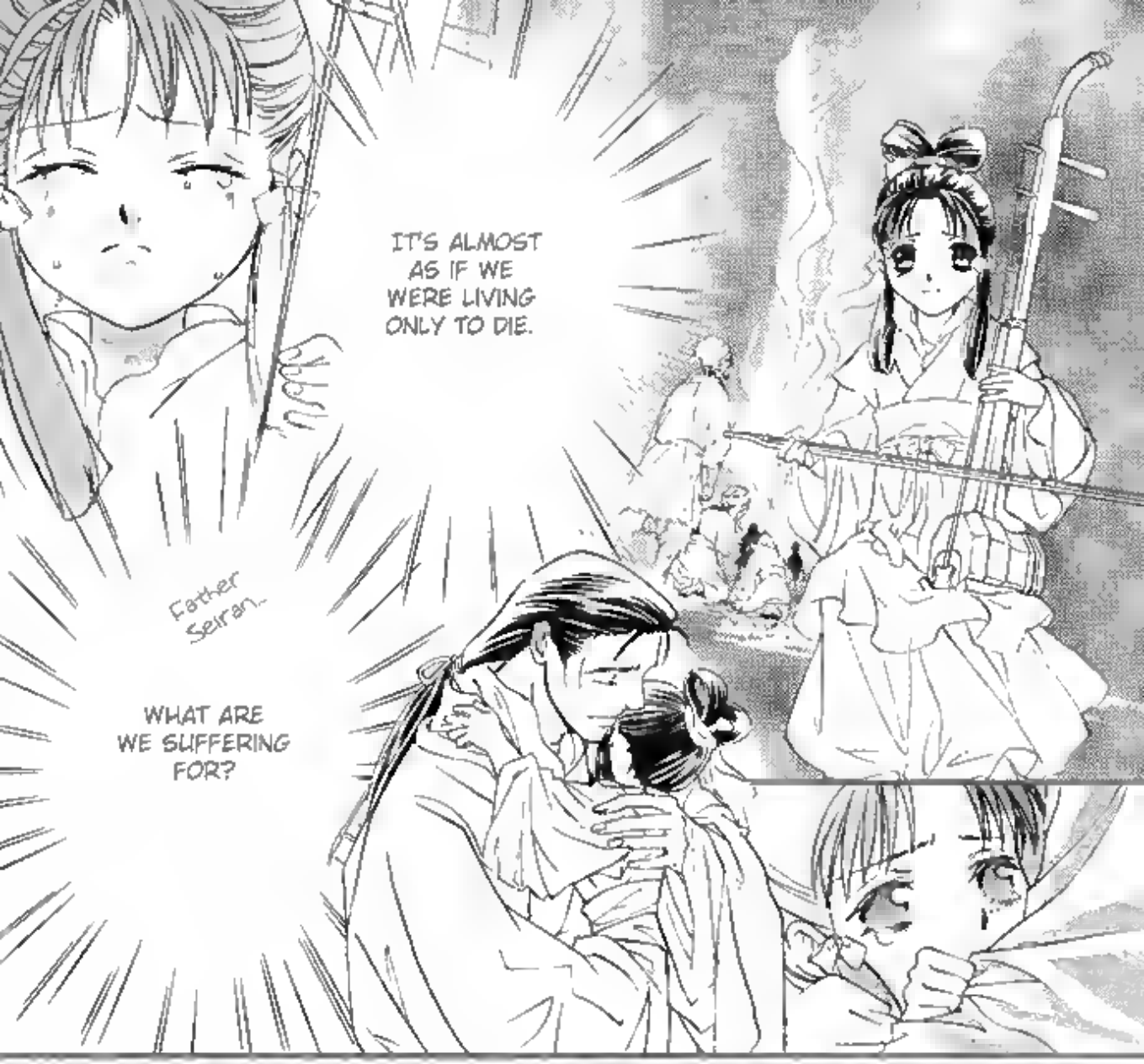

HOW EMBARRASSING. YOUR MAJESTY IS THE LORD OF THE HAREM PLEASE, ENTER PROPERLY FROM THE MAIN DOOR.
HEY, BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU HEARD OF THIS SERVANT GIRL CALLED SHUUREI...
...
SHHH!!
SHHH!!
I SNUCK IN!
SYUSUI!
I SAY... YOUR MAJESTY?
SHOCK
!
YOU MEAN CONCUBINE KOU?
SHUUREI ...
AH, YOU FOUND OUT?
YOU'RE CONCUBINE KOU, AREN'T YOU?

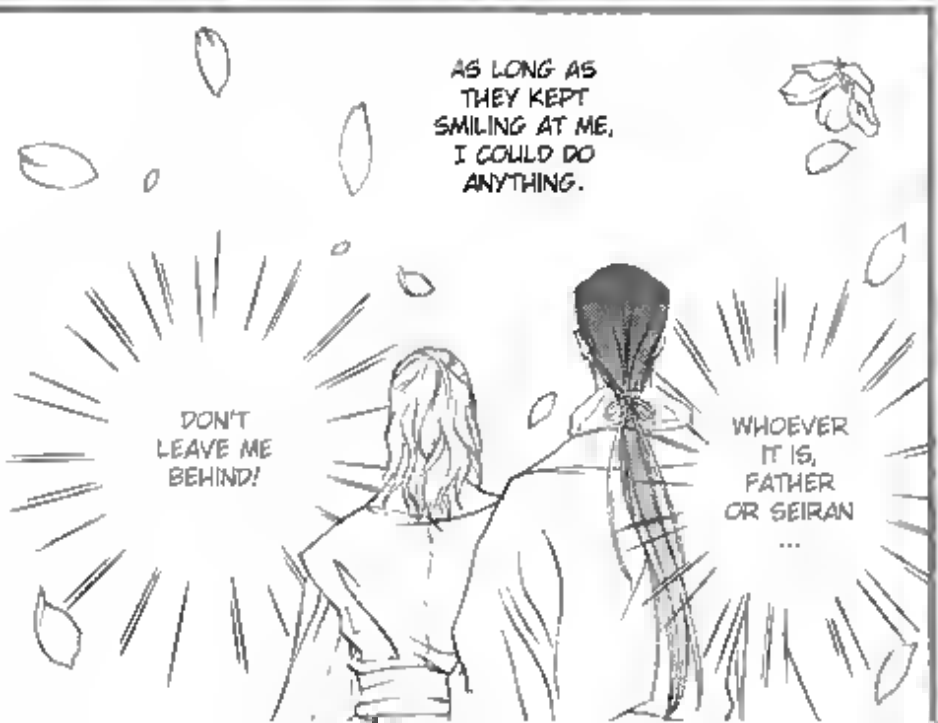
Sob
Even though I know it myself, did he have to be so frank?
NODS
YEAH ...
WELL, SORRY FOR DISAPPOINTING YOU.
YOU MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT CONCUBINES ARE ALL GREAT BEAUTIES.
SIGH ...
I HEARD THAT YOU WERE SENT BY SHAO-TAISHI?
YEAH.
BUT I WASN'T AT ALL DISAPPOINTED.
THE WEATHER'S GREAT TODAY. DO YOU WANT TO HAVE SOME TEA OUTSIDE AGAIN?
TO PERSUADE THE EMPEROR TO TAKE PART IN POLITICS?
OH? YOU SEEM TO KNOW QUITE A BIT, EH?

I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU A STORY ABOUT CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
THE WIND CAN MAKE ONE FEEL SOOOOO GOOD...
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN MY BACKYARD AT HOME NO LONGER BLOOM.
EVEN IF IT'S SPRING ...
SINCE 8 YEARS AGO.
EVEN THE PETALS LOOK LIKE THEY ARE DANCING.
CHERRY BLOSSOMS ...

8 YEARS AGO?
IT WAS DURING THE FIGHT FOR THE THRONE 8 YEARS AGO.
THE DEATH OF THE PREVIOUS EMPEROR CAUSED A TOTAL UPHEAVEL IN THE IMPERIAL COURT.
EVEN THOSE OF US WHO LIVES OUTSIDE THE PALACE WERE AFFECTED.
IF YOU DON'T WORK, YOU DON'T EAT. THAT'S A FACT TO PEOPLE LIKE US.
BUT DURING THAT TIME, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU WORKED, YOU COULD NEVER EARN ENOUGH TO FEED YOURSELF.
IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYBODY IN THE CITY COULD SURVIVE, FATHER WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE WAS ENOUGH FOOD AND WATER...
BUT WHATEVER WE COULD DO WAS LIMITED.
I GUESS THE MOST USEFUL THING TO EVERYBODY THEN WAS ...
MY BACKYARD.

WE HAD A HUGE POND, AND LOTS OF FRUIT TREES TO PROVIDE TO THE PEOPLE.
BUT, BECAUSE OF THAT, THERE'RE NO LONGER ANY FISH LEFT IN OUR POND, OR ANY FRUIT LEFT ON OUR TREES.
THE FLOWERS NO LONGER BLOOM ...
BECAUSE EVERYTHING WAS EATEN.
CHERRY BLOSSOMS, BARK, EVEN THE ROOTS...
RATS, SPIDERS... ANYTHING THAT MOVED WERE EATEN.
EVEN SO, THERE STILL WASN'T ENOUGH.
COUNTLESS PEOPLE DIED BEFORE ME.
SHUUREI.
CAN YOU PLAY THE ERHU FOR HIM?
SO THAT HE CAN REST IN PEACE AT LEAST.


IT'S ALMOST AS IF WE WERE LIVING ONLY TO DIE.
Father Seiran...
WHAT ARE WE SUFFERING FOR?


AS LONG AS THEY KEPT SMILING AT ME, I COULD DO ANYTHING.
DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!
WHOEVER IT IS, FATHER OR SEIRAN ...

PLEASE, DON'T DIE!
BOTH OF THEM GOT THINNER AS THE DAYS

I DREAMED OF THEIR DEATHS EVERY NIGHT.
PLEASE, DON'T ABANDON ME!!!
IF I WERE LEFT BEHIND, I'D RATHER DIE FIRST!
I WAS IN A NIGHTMARE, WHETHER I WAS AWAKE OR DREAMING.
I NEARLY WENT MAD.
THOSE WERE SCARY DAYS.

I'VE BEEN THROUGH FAR TOO MANY UNHAPPY DAYS. I DON'T WANT TO EXPERIENCE ANYMORE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE UPSET WITH MY OWN HELPLESSNESS.
SO, IF THERE'S ANYTHING THAT I CAN DO THIS TIME, I WANT TO TRY.
SO, THAT'S WHY I JOINED THE HAREM.
WHAT I HOPE FOR ISN'T ANYTHING SPECTACULAR.
I'M NOT SILLY ENOUGH TO ASK THE EMPEROR TO CREATE A COUNTRY WHERE EVERYBODY WILL BE HAPPY.
BECAUSE THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE. HAPPINESS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE GIVEN BY SOMEONE.
TO BE HAPPY OR NOT IS A PERSONAL ISSUE. EVEN THE RULER OF A COUNTRY ISN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT.

IT'S YOUR OWN LIFE. YOU HAVE TO LIVE WITH YOUR OWN DECISIONS.
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOURSELF, NO MATTER HOW UNFORTUNATE OR UNFAIR THAT MAY SEEM.
YOUR OWN CHOICE ...
AND THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THERE ARE NO CHOICES AT ALL.
BUT WHEN "SURVIVAL" IS THE MAIN CONCERN EVERYDAY, THERE WON'T BE ANY HAPPINESS OR UNHAPPINESS TO SPEAK OF ANYMORE.
IF IT'S A NATURAL DISASTER, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT IT.
BUT THERE ARE ALSO DISASTERS CAUSED BY MEN.
WELL, IF IT'S MAN-MADE, IT CAN BE PREVENTED, ISN'T IT SO?
THAT'S... WHY YOU CAME HERE?
YES! THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT ONE CAN HANDLE THEMSELVES!
LIKE THE ONE 8 YEARS AGO.

I DON'T KNOW WHY THE EMPEROR BECAME THE WAY HE IS.
IF THE KING SLACKS OFF, THEN WHO WILL DO HIS JOB?
BUT IN TIMES WHEN COMMONERS CAN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY TRY,
ISN'T IT THE DUTY OF THE KING TO STEP IN?
WHAT?
THEREFORE, I'LL STRIVE ON WITH HIM.
THE MAN WHO HOLDS OUR SMILES AND TEARS IN HIS PALMS...
BUT SINCE HE'S THRONED, HE SHOULD WORK HARD, TOO.
UNTIL YOU CAN BE A DEPENDABLE KING.
I'LL STAY BY YOU.
I'M HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.

THAT'S WHAT I'D WANT TO TELL THE EMPEROR WHEN I MEET HIM.
SINCE YOU KNOW THE EMPEROR WELL, CAN YOU PLEASE HELP ME PASS THE MESSAGE?
ALSO, IF HIS MAJESTY FEELS JUST A LITTLE MOTIVATED, I'LL BE WAITING FOR HIS ARRIVAL IN THE ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON
SEIRAN!
MISS...
MISS, THAT WAS...?

IF HE DOESN'T?
I'LL THINK ABOUT THAT, THEN.
IN ANY CASE, I DECLARED WAR. IT'S UP TO HIM IF HE WANTS TO APPEAR THIS AFTERNOON.
I KNOW.
Just meet him.
I SAW THROUGH HIM THE MOMENT HE CLAIMED TO BE RAN SHUIEI.
EITHER HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO LIE, OR HE DOESN'T LIE OFTEN.
JUST NOW... HE SEEMED TO BE LISTENING.
THEREFORE... HE SHOULD UNDERSTAND...
BUT I THINK HE GOT WHAT I WANTED TO SAY.
WHY DO YOU SAY SO?
A KING WHO'S LIKE PLAIN PAPER..
INCREDIBLY UNTOUCHED BY ANY COLORS..
I GUESS HE WILL CHANGE MUCH IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
HE ISN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT.
YEAH, HE MAY JUST BECOME A WISE EMPEROR.

THAT WILL BE THE BEST.
HIS MAJESTY WILL APPEAR THIS AFTERNOON.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE MISS WAS A STUDENT.
KNOWLEDGE COMES FIRST, SINCE EVEN I KNOW LITTLE ABOUT COURT AFFAIRS.
SO, I MUST GET SHOU-TAISHI TO RECOMMEND SOME GOOD TEACHERS FAST!
COUGH COUGH
WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT WOMEN CAN'T TAKE PART IN POLITICS,
I DECIDED TO ENTRUST MY DREAMS TO THESE CHILDREN.
HOPEFULLY ONE DAY, I'LL GROOM AN OFFICIAL WORTHY ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE KING.
I WANTED TO JOIN THE COURT AND HELP THE EMPEROR CREATE A COUNTRY WHERE NOBODY WOULD STARVE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I STARTED THE SCHOOL BECAUSE OF THE KING.
FATHER AND I WORKED SO HARD, TOO.
THAT'S PRETTY TRUE.

MISS,
YOU'VE WORKED HARD.
THE EMPEROR MAY JUST CHANGE...
WHAT A CAPABLE CONCUBINE.
THAT'S HARD TO SAY.

WHAT A PITY ...
HMPH!
SHUUEI?
IF HE CHANGES,
I MAY CONSIDER PLEDGING MY LOYALTY TO HIM.
IS THAT ALL YOU THINK ABOUT!?
But since she's already a concubine
SHE'S MY TYPE.
WELL, DON'T YOU THINK SO, TOO?
TRYING TO CHANGE THE TOPIC
OH?
I FINALLY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO.
THAT WILL FIRST DEPEND ON WHETHER HE WILL APPEAR THIS AFTERNOON.
FROM GROUND ZERO... AH!
ALRIGHT! LET'S GO TO THE ARCHIVES NOW TO PREPARE THE MATERIALS!
IF I'M NOT HIS TEACHER, WHO WILL BE?
I'M GOING TO START SHOVING IN POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE INTO HIS HEAD FROM GROUND ZERO.

STONED
YOU'RE STILL A TOTAL RETARD WHEN IT COMES TO DIRECTIONS.
HALT
I SAY, KOUYUU. CAN'T YOU SEE THE ARCHIVES OVER THERE?
You can follow me if you want.
Well I'm on the way there, too.
HA, HA, HA!
A LIFE WITH CHOICES.
THAT'S ALL I HOPE FROM THE KING.

I AM SHI RYUUKI.
MY FRIEND PASSED ME THE MESSAGE.
I SEE ...
AND YOUR REPLY IS?
I'LL RETURN TO POLITICS.

I WON'T LET YOUR MAJESTY STRUGGLE ALONE IN YOUR LESSONS.
THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY!
I ALSO WILL ...
EH?
EH?
SWISH
EH?

UWAH!!
YOU ...
There's ...
THERE'S ONE THING I WANT TO ASK YOU!
WHAT THE HELL ...
IS GOING ON!?
YOU PREFER MEN TO WOMEN... RIGHT?
WELL ...
THUMP THUMP
THANK... THANK GOD. THAT'S GREAT.
RELIEVED
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
...
NOW... NOW WE'LL START FROM THE BASICS... OF POLITICAL THEORY.
That's great?
CREAK CREAK CREAK
AH!
THERE'S STILL THE PROBLEM ABOUT PASSING ON THE THRONE, BUT WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER!
STIFFEN

TADA!
LET'S NOT WASTE TIME! I'LL INTRODUCE YOUR TEACHER TO YOU!
HE'S THE ONE KNOWN AS THE NUMBER ONE TALENTED YOUTH OF THE IMPERIAL COURT!
I'M PLEASED TO HAVE "FINALLY" MET YOU ...
YOUR MAJESTY ...
KA BAM!
FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE VERY STRICT WITH MY LESSONS.
PLEASE, BE PREPARED, YOUR MAJESTY.
...
WILL YOUR MAJESTY PLEASE REMAIN QUIET!!!!
fwah fwah
TWITCH
HE KNEW ...
Tsk!
THE ARCHIVES ARE PROBABLY THE ONLY PLACE THAT KOUYUU WON'T GET LOST IN.
DAMN, YOU'VE PREPARED THAT MUCH MATERIAL

Note. "Aniue" is the term used an older brothers usually only in royal families.

FORGIVE ME FOR BARGING INTO YOUR ROOM.
BUT YOU SEEM TO BE DISTURBED BY YOUR DREAMS...
AH, I SEE.
AND I'VE ONLY SLEPT A BIT, TOO.
SEI...
RAN...?
...
AH... WELL, YOU REACHED OUT AND I JUST...
WAVES
WAVES
YOUR... YOUR MAJESTY?
SHOCK
DO YOU WANT TO SLEEP WITH ME TONIGHT?

HOLDS TIGHTLY
IT'LL BE A WASTE TO EMBRACE YOU.
I'VE DECIDED NOT TO TOUCH SEIRAN.
JUST KIDDING.
AH... THAT'S...
I UNDERSTAND THAT SEIRAN IS A GOOD MAN, AND THE BOTH OF YOU HAVE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER...
BUT AS SHUUREI'S HUSBAND I CAN'T HELP BUT GET JUST A LITTLE UPSET.
YOU'RE TOO OUTSTANDING, IN MY OPINION.
AH?
IN ANY CASE, COMPARED TO ME, SHUUREI TENDS TO DEPEND MORE ON YOU.
...
AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO DO THAT?
SUDDENLY GETS UP
SO, I'VE DECIDED TO START BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN US AS HUSBAND AND WIFE.

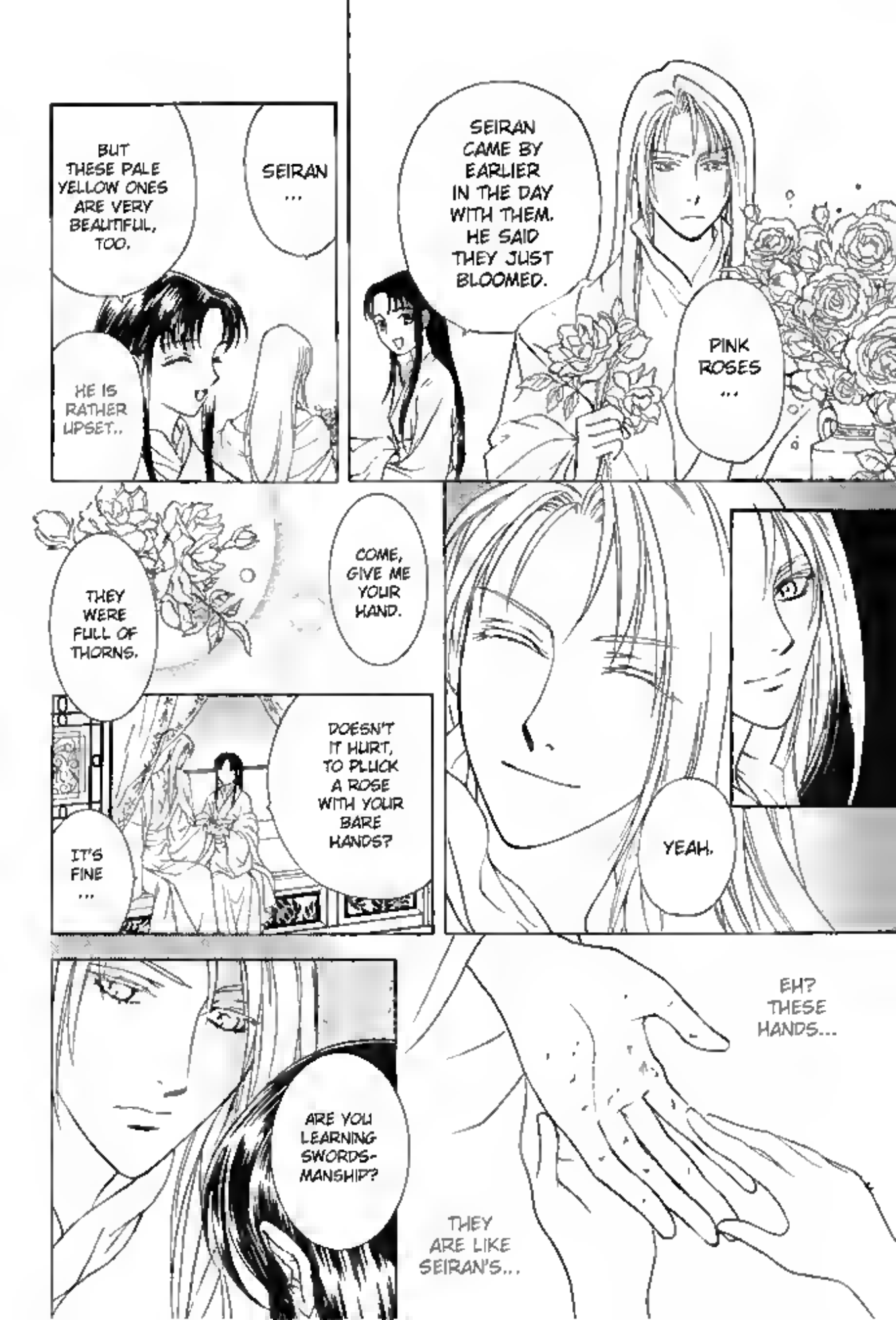
THAT'S IT! I'LL GET HER TO CALL ME BY NAME!
SEIRAN, HE...
SEIRAN!
SPEAKING OF SEIRAN ..
WELL ...
PLEASE WAIT A MINUTE YOUR MAJESTY
YOU'RE DISMISSED FROM DUTY TONIGHT.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SPRING, THE NIGHTS ARE COLD. PLEASE, AT LEAST PUT ON A JACKET.
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD LIKE THIS.

HOW TIME PASSES. IT'S BEEN A MONTH ALREADY.
HIS MAJESTY SEEMS TO HAVE CHANGED BRILLIANTLY OVERNIGHT.
EVEN SHOU-TAISHI SAYS THAT THE OFFICIALS HAVE BEGUN TO SHOW SOME RESPECT FOR HIS MAJESTY.
SPARKLE
I LIKE SHUUREI, BUT I LIKE SEIRAN, TOO!
I SEE.
That's what Shuurei-dono said
IF IT WERE NONSENSE, KOUYUU-DONO WOULD HAVE IGNORED IT COMPLETELY.
BUT IT'S EXCITING!
YES, HE'S BEEN WORKING VERY HARD.
HE'S RATHER SHARP DURING LESSONS, TOO.
This won't work either!
That won't work!
EVEN THOUGH HE'S ALWAYS REBUTTED BY KOUYUU-DONO.
SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING.
THOUGH HIS HABIT OF GETTING MALE SERVANTS TO ACCOMPANY HIM EVERY NIGHT HASN'T CHANGED ...

YEAH, EVERYBODY FINDS THAT RATHER UNBELIEVABLE.
I'VE BROUGHT YOU YOUR TEA.
BLUSH
SITS UP
YOU SPEND EVERYDAY SO CLOSELY WITH HIS MAJESTY.
RIGHT, KOURIN?
SO, WHY SLEEP SEPARATELY EVERY NIGHT?
THANK YOU, KOURIN.
ST-START PLANNING... WHAT THE HELL!?
START ...
AH...
WE CAN ALL START PLANNING NOW, LADY KOU!
Shudder
I APPRECIATE YOUR KINDNESS...
BUT... WE'LL JUST LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE.
AIYAH!!
SHUT UP...
WE ALL THINK THAT IT'S BECAUSE HIS MAJESTY CARES TOO MUCH FOR LADY KOU,
AND IS TRYING TO TAKE HIS TIME TO SLOWLY WORK ON THE RELATIONSHIP.
BUT THE OLDER MAIDS ALL WANT TO SEE A YOUNG PRINCE SOON!

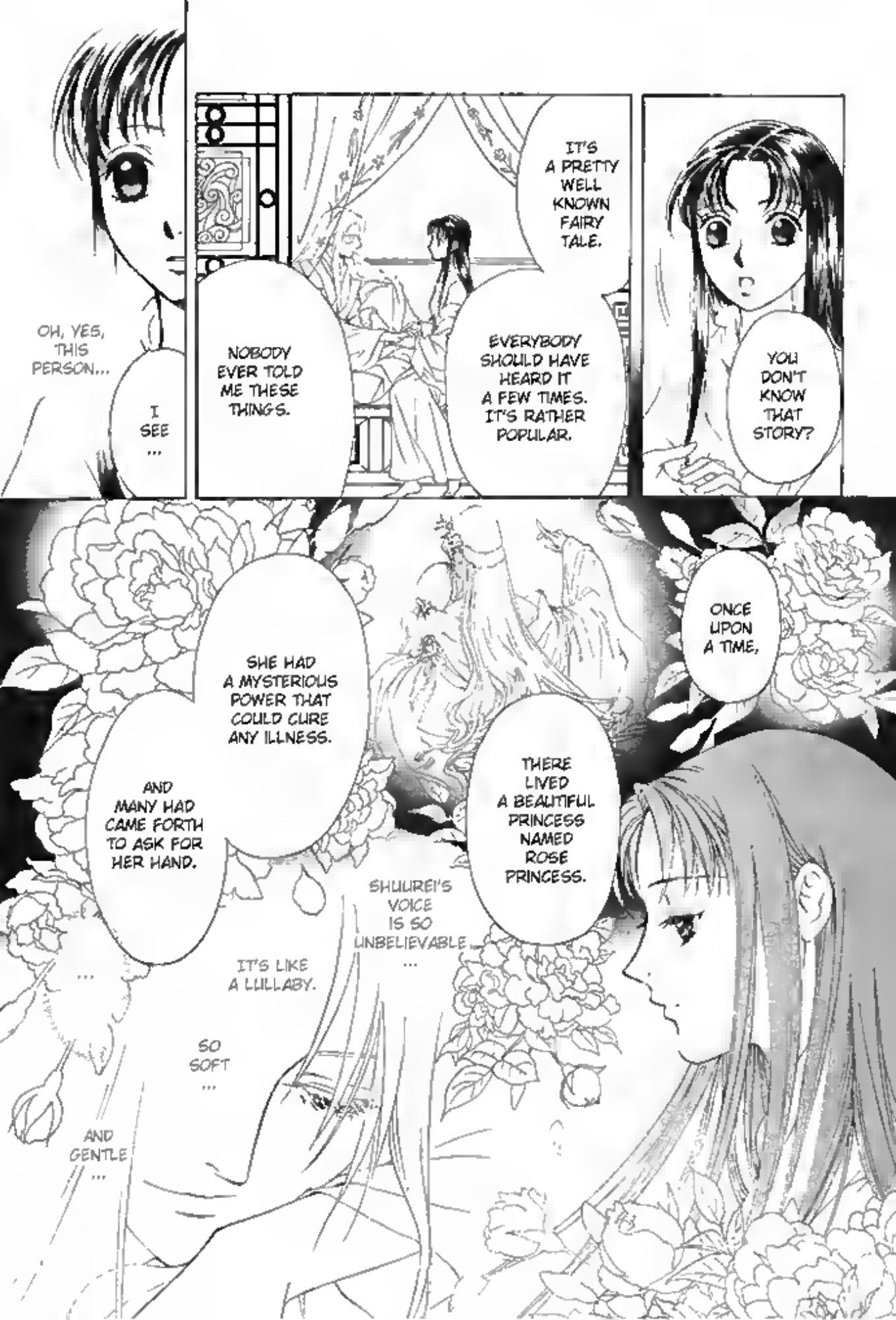
EXHAUSTED
THEN ...
PLEASE, REST WELL TONIGHT.
Ahhh!
I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN.
BUT LET'S NOT RUSH THINGS.
I NEED TO WORK HARD!
STOMP STOMP
Oh! oh, no!
KOURIN, THAT'S UNBECOMING OF YOU!
SMILE
HIS MAJESTY HAS ARRIVED!
SHUUREI, I'M HERE TO BRIDGE THE GAP.
WHAT THE ...?

THOSE ARE...
FOR ME?
Struts forward.
WH- WHAT'S GOING ON?
GEEZ, HURRY IN!
Here!
EVEN IF IT'S SPRING, THE NIGHTS ARE COLD STILL.
WHY ARE YOUR HANDS INJURED?
AND THEY ARE FREEZING COLD!
SYUSUI, PLEASE, BRING SOME HOT TEA.
YES, MY LADY.
IT WAS A RIGHT DECISION TO WEAR LESS AFTER ALL..

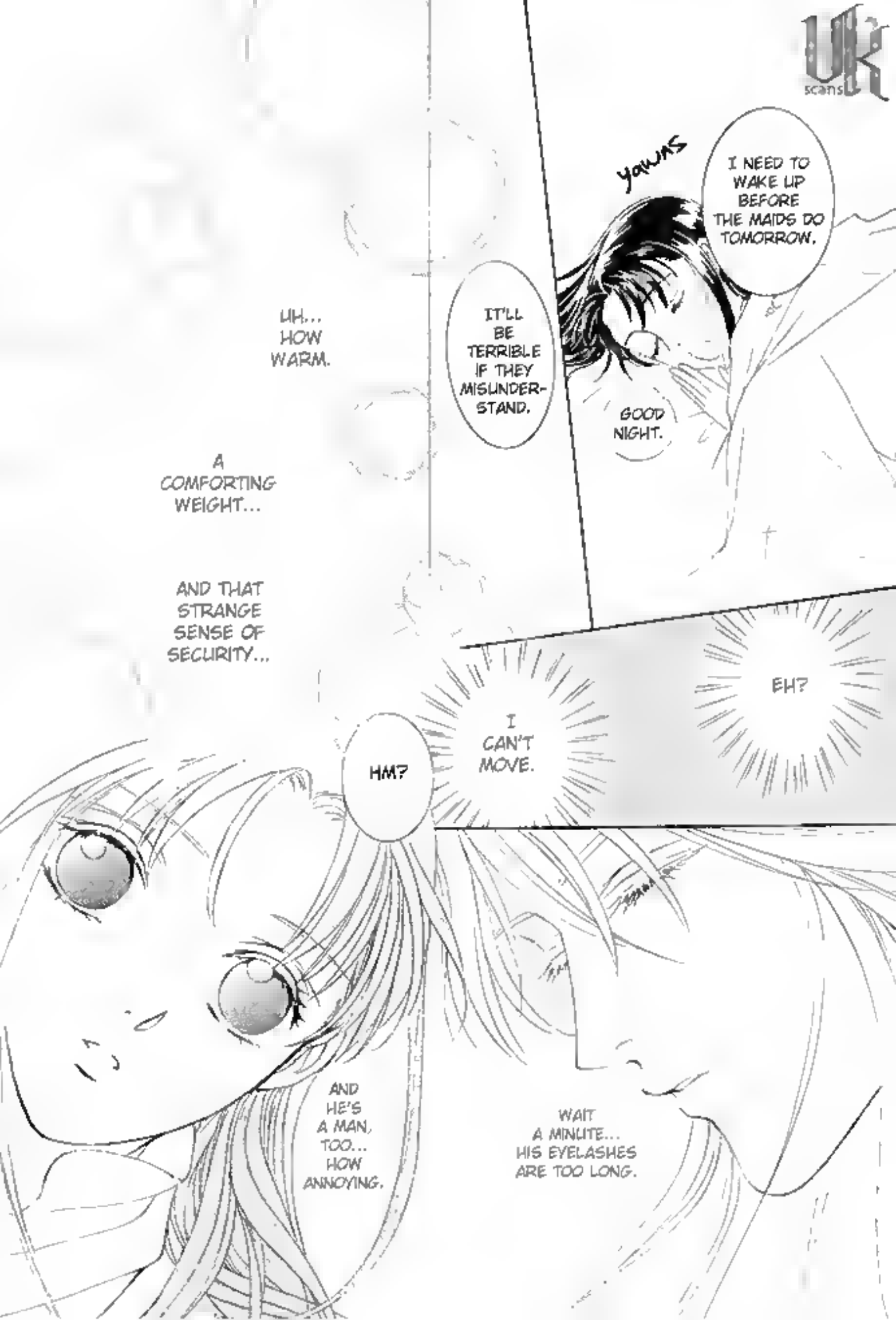

SEIRAN ...
BUT THESE PALE YELLOW ONES ARE VERY BEAUTIFUL, TOO.
HE IS RATHER UPSET..
SEIRAN CAME BY EARLIER IN THE DAY WITH THEM. HE SAID THEY JUST BLOOMED.
PINK ROSES ...
COME, GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
THEY WERE FULL OF THORNS.
DOESN'T IT HURT, TO PLUCK A ROSE WITH YOUR BARE HANDS?
IT'S FINE ...
YEAH.
EH? THESE HANDS...
ARE YOU LEARNING SWORDS-MANSHIP?
THEY ARE LIKE SEIRAN'S...

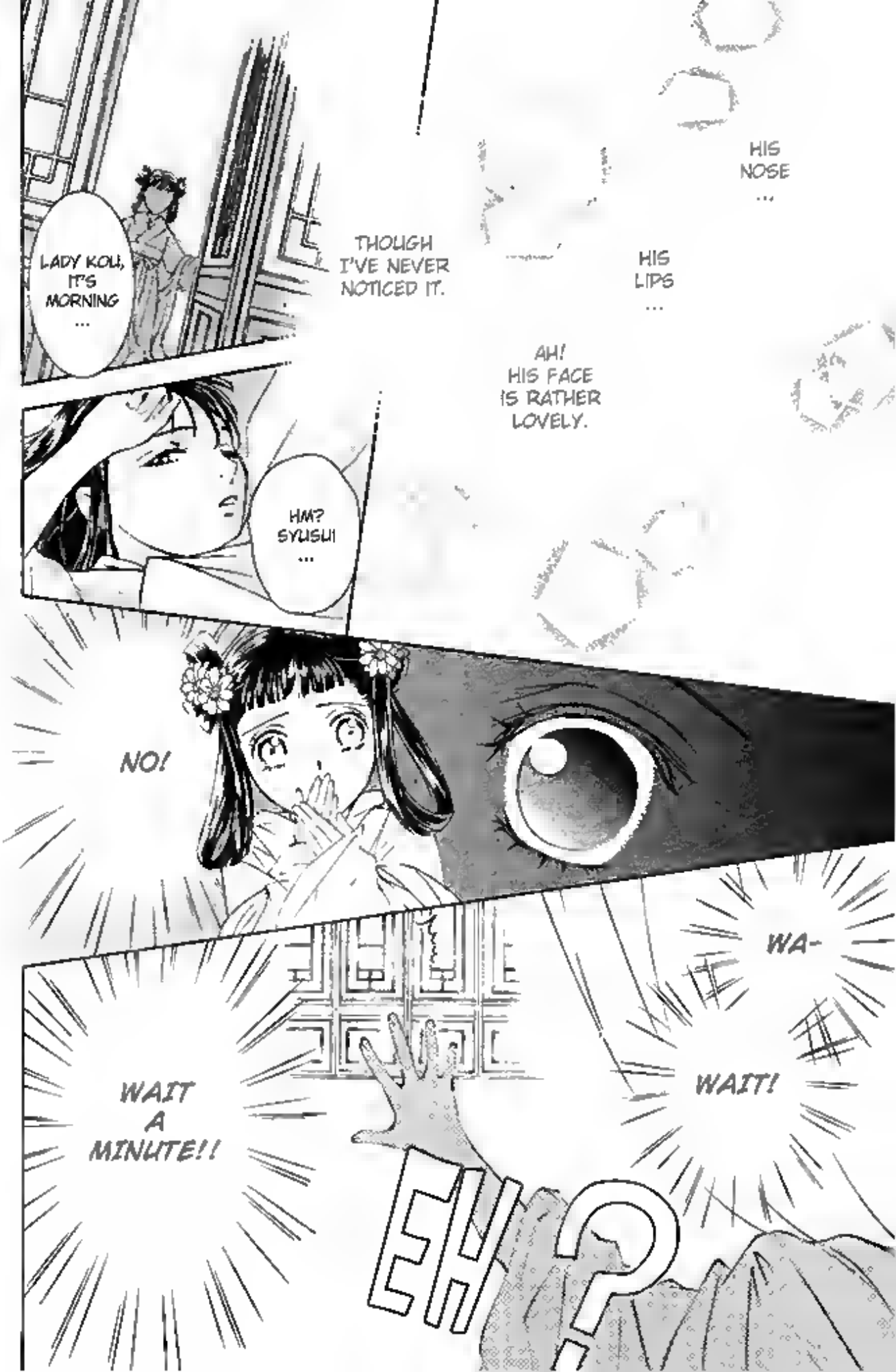
HM?
SHUURE!
AH!
CALL ME BY MY NAME!
I CAME FOR A REASON.
MY NAME!
NAME?
MORE OR LESS... AS PART OF BEING EMPEROR ...
OH, HOW SURPRISING.
THEN, IT'S DECIDED! YOU WILL CALL ME BY MY NAME FROM NOW ON.
CALL YOU... RYUUKI?
WHY DO YOU SUDDENLY ...
DON'T YOU FIND AN UNUSED NAME RATHER PITIFUL?
IF IT'S ONLY MY NAME THAT YOU DON'T USE, IT'S TOO UNFAIR!
IF YOU SAY SO...
RYUUKI ...?
AGAIN?
BLUSH

I UNDERSTAND.
BUT ONLY WHEN WE ARE ALONE!
GRIIIN
HAPPY
CONTENTED
HAPPY
HAVE YOU GONE INSANE?
SURE!
JUST THAT MAKES ME SO HAPPY.
THERE'S SOMEONE TO CALL ME BY NAME.
PAIN
PAIN
PAIN
THEY HURT ...
BUT THESE WOUNDS ..
OUCH ...
PRICKS ARE ALWAYS PAINFUL, NO MATTER HOW INSIGNIFICANT THEY LOOK.
See?
WHY DO ROSES HAVE THORNS?
?
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT'S BECAUSE THE ROSE PRINCESS FELL IN LOVE WITH A MORTAL MAN.


OH, YES, THIS PERSON...
I SEE ...
NOBODY EVER TOLD ME THESE THINGS.
EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE HEARD IT A FEW TIMES. IT'S RATHER POPULAR.
IT'S A PRETTY WELL KNOWN FAIRY TALE.
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT STORY?
ONCE UPON A TIME,
THERE LIVED A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS NAMED ROSE PRINCESS.
SHE HAD A MYSTERIOUS POWER THAT COULD CURE ANY ILLNESS.
AND MANY HAD CAME FORTH TO ASK FOR HER HAND.
SHIURE'S VOICE IS SO UNBELIEVABLE ...
IT'S LIKE A LULLABY.
...
SO SOFT ...
AND GENTLE ...

SIGH
UH?
hm?
WHAT CAN I DO WITH YOU...
SNORES
FLOPS
...
NOW, WHERE DO I SLEEP?
HE'S SLEEPING SO SOUNDLY.
HE'S GAY, SO... THERE SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM...
BUT JUST IN CASE...


I NEED TO WAKE UP BEFORE THE MAIDS DO TOMORROW.
YAWNS
GOOD NIGHT.
IT'LL BE TERRIBLE IF THEY MISUNDER-STAND.
UH... HOW WARM.
A COMFORTING WEIGHT...
AND THAT STRANGE SENSE OF SECURITY...
EH?
I CAN'T MOVE.
HM?
WAIT A MINUTE... HIS EYELASHES ARE TOO LONG.
AND HE'S A MAN, TOO... HOW ANNOYING.

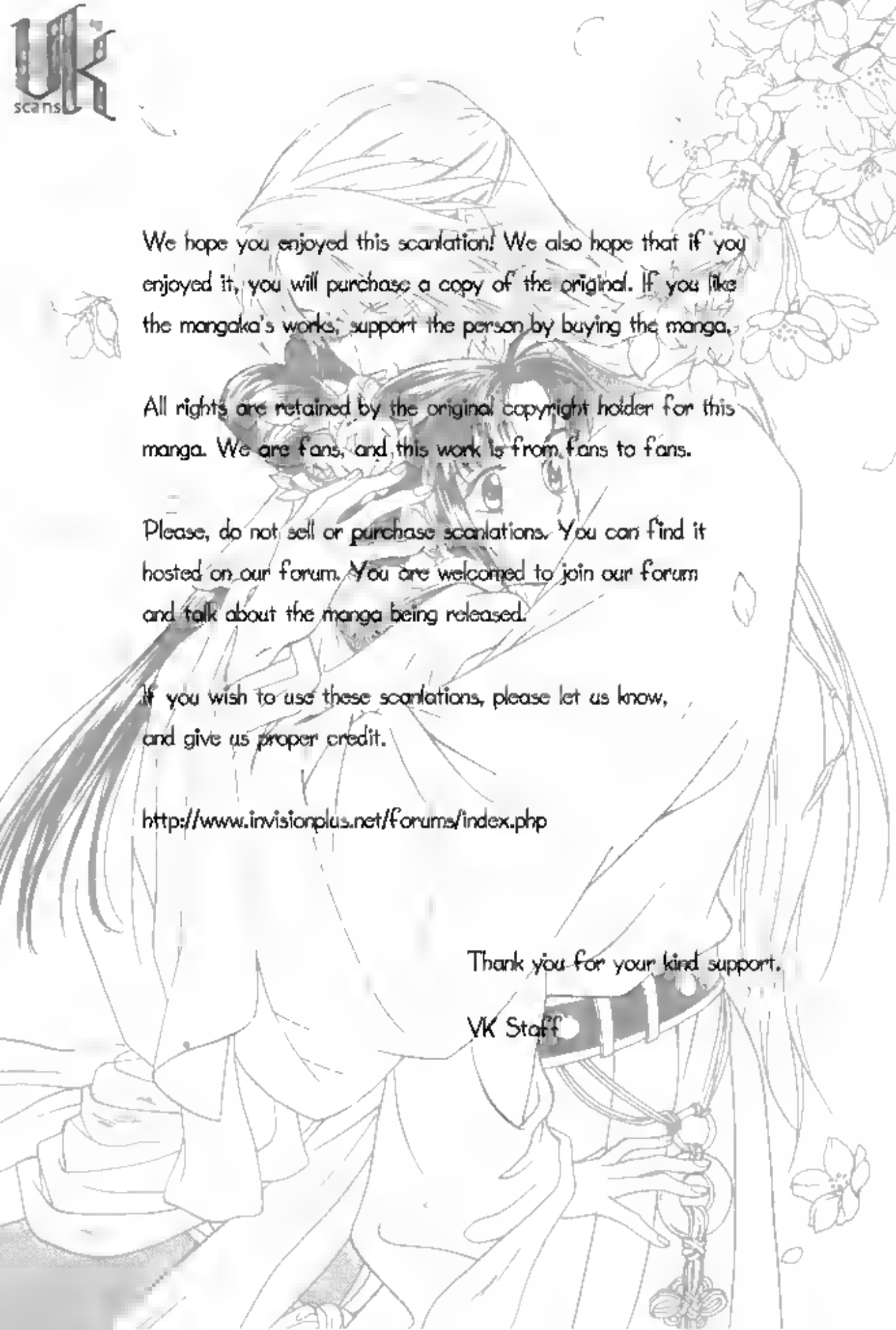

LADY KOU, IT'S MORNING ...
HM? SYUSUI ...
THOUGH I'VE NEVER NOTICED IT.
AH! HIS FACE IS RATHER LOVELY.
HIS NOSE ...
HIS LIPS ...
NO!
WAIT A MINUTE!!
WA-
WAIT!
EH?

EHHH!!!
GET UP, YOUR MAJESTY!!
LET GO!!
No!!
WAKE UP!
Wake up!
HUGGLES
BAM
BANG
URGH! STOP SLEEPING!
UH ...
SAY MY NAME... WE PROMISED ...

Isn't going to be easy...

Shuurei-dono's mission to change the emperor ...

(SAINKOKU MONOGATARI VOL1 CH2 / END)



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VK Staff

SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI

CHAPTER 03

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SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI

WRITTEN BY YUKINO SAI
ILLUSTRATED BY YURA KAIRI

CHAPTER 03

Smile

Smile

SHUUREI IS A *LITTLE* BIT UPSET

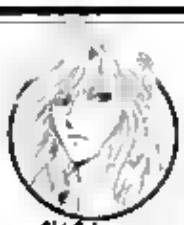
...

SHUUREI, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK A LITTLE PALE.

Damn you...

YOU...

Shi Kyuuki
The uninterested emperor of Saiunkoku but what he feels for Shuurei is...?



Shi Seiran
Adopted to be a man servant of the Kou family 19 years ago. Shuurei's personal guard.

Kou Shuurei
Young lady of the noble Kou family. Joined the harem as a concubine to support her impoverished family

Kou Shouka - Shuurei's Father. Head of the Kou family
Li Kouyuu - Academic, Assistant General Secretary
Kan Shuusi - Militarist General of the Left Imperial Army
Shan Taishi - One of the 3 Elders

The Story so Far

A young emperor of Saiunkoku, Shi Kyuuki, gave up on politics from the moment he was throned. Shuurei, the poor young lady of the noble Kou family was asked to come into the palace as his teacher, under the facade of a concubine. There, Shuurei met a young man (Kyuuki himself) who claimed to be Kan Shuusi. While Shuurei is passionate about her job as a teacher, Kyuuki's actions never stopped causing her some grief. Once, while telling a story to Kyuuki in bed, she was spotted by her maid, Kourin. Although she wanted to clear up the misunderstanding, she still ended up spending the night with him

AND WE JUST HAD TO BE SPOTTED BY KOURIN...
THE RUMOURS ARE ALL OVER THE PALACE BY NOW...
HIS MAJESTY FINALLY SPENT A NIGHT WITH A LADY!
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET ACROSS THE PILLOW?
ER... THIS...
URGH!!
YOUR FACE IS SO RED...
Aiyah?
SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION!!!
That's a fast exit!
Glances
PLEASE, HAVE SOME BREAKFAST.

CHEW
WHY IS SEIRAN INCLUDED?
..A YOUNG GIRL'S WORRIES!
ARGH! YOU'LL NEVER UNDER-STAND!
Shudders
Ah! Oh, man! What will happen if father or Seiran believe those rumours? What should I do??
FRANKLY, NOTHING HAPPENED, RIGHT?
WHAT?
OI!
WELL, EVEN IF I DID DO SOMETHING, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
SMIRK
YOU ARE MY CONCUBINE AFTER ALL.
...

SHUUREI'S HAIR IS SO SOFT AND SMOOTH...VERY COMFORTABLE TO TOUCH...
...
...DON'T CHANGE THE TOPIC!! JUST ANSWER ME!
owie
Whacks
NOTHING HAPPENED LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?
...GREAT. SO, NOTHING HAPPENED.
RELIEVED
phew~
HOW ARE YOU SO SURE?
I CAN TELL FROM YOUR EXPRESSION.
...
NIBBLE
NIBBLE
NIBBLE
NIBBLE
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON THE ME. I SPEND ALL MY TIME WITH THE KIDS IN SCHOOL.
Now I'm relaxed enough to eat

whacks
Don't rest your elbow on the table!
whacks
Don't suck on your chopsticks!
And don't chew on your chopsticks either!
YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU SHOULD ONLY DO THINGS LIKE THAT WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE.
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
BITES
WHAT? AREN'T YOU MY CONCUBINE? WHY ARE YOU SO UNWILLING?
PUTS DOWN
WHAT'S WITH THE SUDDEN CHANGE IN EXPRESSION?
BUT IT'S A DIFFERENT SORT OF 'LOVE'.
YES... YES I DO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
EH?
SHUURE! DOESN'T LOVE ME?

Right? Right?
...YEAH.
DON'T YOU HAVE PEOPLE THAT YOU LOVE...
BUT DON'T WANT TO DO SUCH THINGS WITH?
If I don't love you that way, I can't do things like that with you!
THAT'S THE REASON! I LIKE YOU, BUT I DON'T LOVE YOU THAT WAY.
IT'S NOT THE SORT OF LOVE THAT MAKES MY HEART BEAT AND MAKES ME WANT TO DIE IF YOU ARE NOT AROUND.
THAT'S... THAT'S RIGHT.
IN OTHER WORDS, IF SOMEONE CAN'T MAKE YOU FEEL SPECIAL TOWARDS HIM, YOU WON'T SHARE A BED WITH HIM?
AH... HA...

IN ANY CASE, SINCE YOU LIKE MEN, YOU SHOULD HAVE MANY OPTIONS TO PICK FROM.
DON'T MIND ME MUCH.
EVERYBODY... THINKS DIFFERENTLY.
AH, WELL...
THAT'S MY OWN OPINION.
...WHAT THE, HOW CAN YOU LET A GIRL TALK ABOUT SUCH TOPICS...
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?
GENERAL RAN.
AH, SEIRAN

GRIN GRIN
YOU WERE THE GUARD ON DUTY LAST NIGHT, WEREN'T YOU?
YUP, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SIGH
DO YOU MEAN HIS MAJESTY AND YOUNG MISS?
TO LET THE OTHER CALL YOU BY YOUR NAME... THAT'S GENERAL BRIDGING THE GAP WITH WOMEN? HOW SURPRISING.
SEIRAN! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO BRIDGE THAT GAP!
oh!
YES. BEFORE LEAVING, HIS MAJESTY SAID THAT HE WANTED TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE.
EH?
IS THERE SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN YOU AND LADY KOU...
Haha
IS THERE A REASON FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE?
YOU SOUND PRETTY SURE ABOUT THIS.
I'M GUESSING 9 OUT OF 10 THAT NOTHING HAPPENED.

I said, there isn't anything!
And you are a 20-ish grown man. Spill it!
There isn't anything!
Father, daughter and manservant living under one roof...
IT IS RATHER SUSPICIOUS, COME TO THINK ABOUT IT.
WHOOSH
Sou-taifu!
WHAT ARE TWO GROWN MEN RACKETING ON ABOUT IN THE COURTYARD?
CLANK

YOU ARE...
THE BOY FROM THE RAN FAMILY AND SOMEONE ELSE...
WELL, YOU ARE JUST IN TIME. BE MY OPPONENT.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE SOMEBODY CROSSED SWORDS WITH AN OLD MAN LIKE ME...
M-ME?

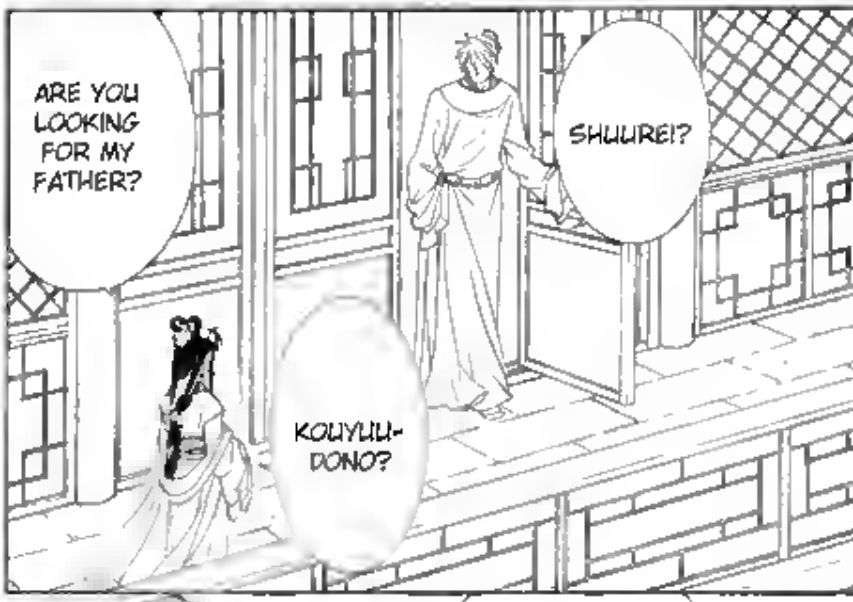
CLANK
Smile
NICE DEFENSE!
GENERAL SOU...
...YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR NAME.
EVEN AFTER RETIREMENT, SOU-TAIFU IS STILL THE GENERAL OF GENERALS.

WATCH OUT, SEIRAN.
IT'S NOT THAT THERE'S NOBODY WILLING TO SPAR WITH HIM.
HE JUST COULDN'T FIND AN OPPONENT THAT COULD MATCH UP.
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
I JUST TURNED 21.
REALLY?

I HEARD THAT YOU WERE ADOPTED BY SHOUKA 13 YEARS AGO.
SO, WHAT WERE YOU DOING BEFORE THEN?
!
PAUSE
Ugh!
NICE SKILLS...
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEEN SELF-TAUGHT.
BUT I RECOGNIZE YOUR FOUNDATION.

The 2nd Prince who was exiled for treason...
If he were alive, he should be 26 now...
AND HE'S BEEN MISSING FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
OF THOSE WHO LEARNED THAT STYLE OF SWORD, ONLY ONE IS STILL ALIVE.
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE IT AGAIN.
HOW NOSTALGIC...
...THAT YOUNG PRINCE USED TO CALL ME 'GENERAL SOU' TOO.

EVERY MAID THAT I'VE MET IN THE HAREM WAS SMILING AT ME SO MEANINGFULLY, THAT IT'S...
THANKFULLY, THERE ISN'T ANYONE HERE AT THE ARCHIVES.
Phew



*Translator's Note: To be more accurate, it would be the Minister of the Sanbes but I figure General Secretary will make more sense, and it also implies that he is one of the highest ranking officials around.

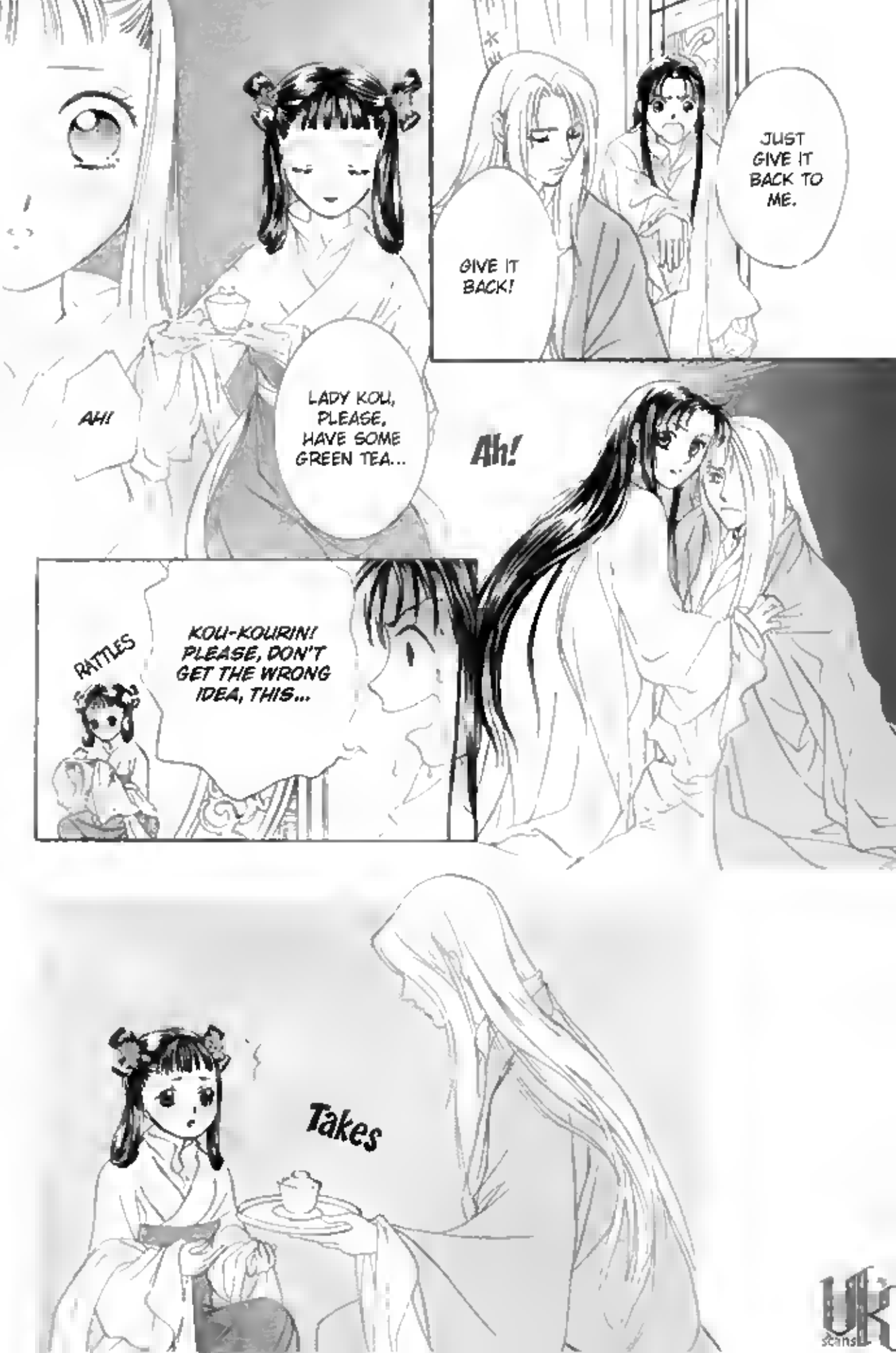
AH!
EVEN KOUYUU-DONO CAUGHT WIND OF THAT RUMOR!!
NO- NOTHING!
NOTHING AT ALL!
GOODBYE!
Ah This is bad. This is REALLY bad!!
SLAM
WHAT'S GOING ON?
Women are strange creatures indeed.
WHAT'S WRONG...
It's all that stupid Emperor's fault!!
...FATHER, I'M 16! AND HE'S A 19 YEAR OLD MAN!
YOU JUST LAY DOWN TOGETHER, RIGHT? NOTHING HAPPENED.

WHENEVER THERE'S A THUNDERSTORM, WHO IS IT THAT WILL JUST GRAB ON TO HIM AND REFUSE TO LET GO FOR THE ENTIRE NIGHT?
!
BUT DON'T YOU OFTEN ASK SEIRAN TO SLEEP WITH YOU?
OH REALLY?
BLUSH
THAT'S A DIFFERENT THING ALTOGETHER!
OH, YES, I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU.
I CAME BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU'D BE WORRIED.
Never mind.
AND DON'T SAY IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE. JUST USE IT, OK?
WELL, IT'S SOMETHING FROM MY FRIEND.
A GIFT?

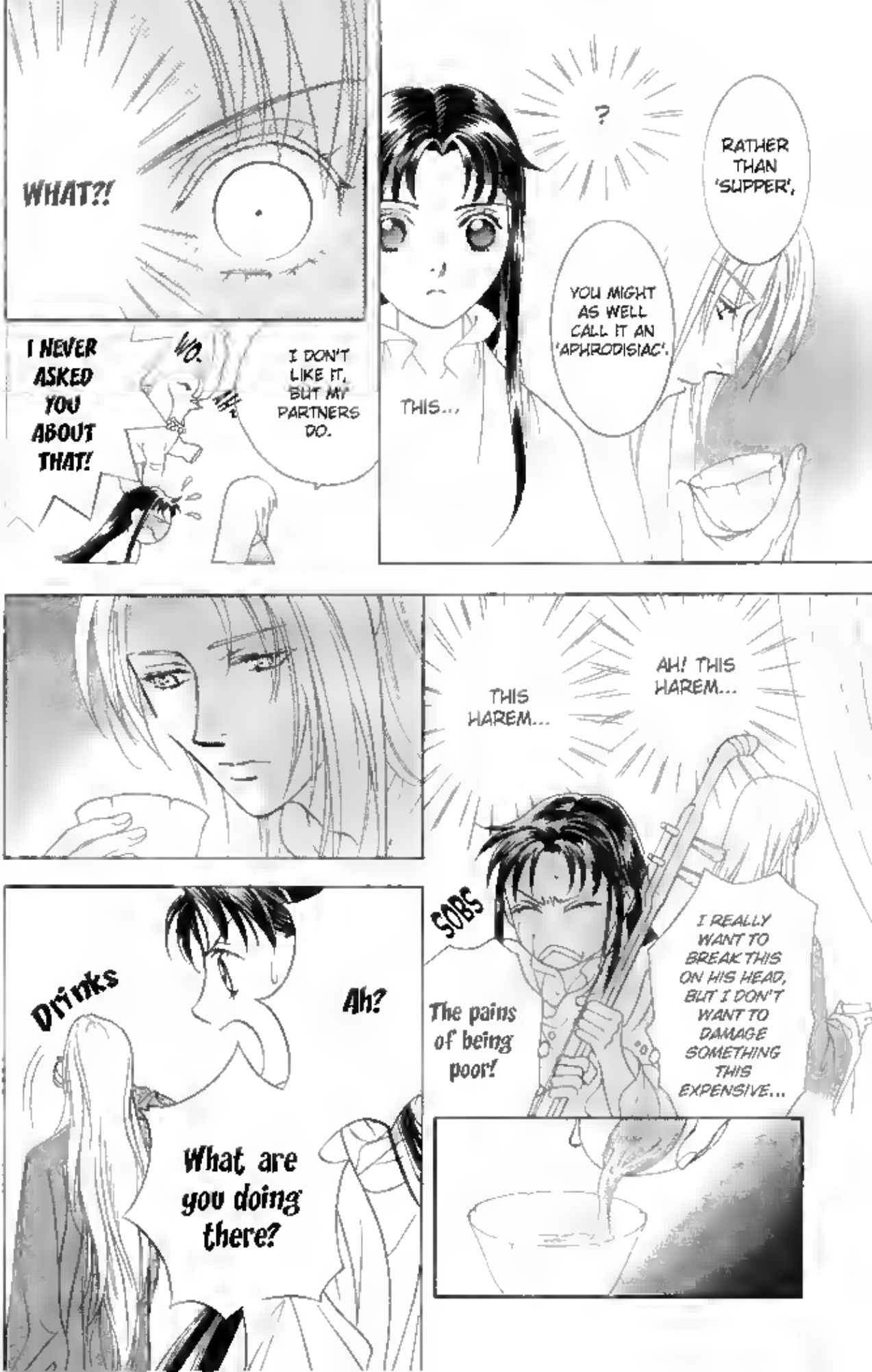
What are you doing here again, you shameless fool??
Syusui..
THIS IS STRANGE! DIDN'T YOU USED TO GET A SERVANT TO SLEEP WITH YOU?
STILL... WAIT, DON'T CHANGE THE TOPIC!
WE ARE HUSBAND AND WIFE. WHAT'S SO WRONG ABOUT THIS?
SWAGGERS IN
What?!!
WHAT A GREAT DISCOVERY!
I FINALLY FOUND OUT THAT SHUURE! IS SO MUCH BETTER THAN ANY SERVANT.

ARE YOU REALLY PLANNING TO SLEEP HERE TONIGHT?
I'M ASKING YOU...
NODS
WHAT THE... HOW OLD DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
I FELL ASLEEP BEFORE HEARING THE ENDING.
CONTINUE THAT STORY FROM YESTERDAY.
I UNDERSTAND. SEEMS LIKE I CAN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND.
I'LL JUST CONSIDER THAT THE 500 PIECES OF GOLD INCLUDES BABYSITTING FEES.
EH?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE'LL DO THIS PROPERLY. NOW, GO TO SLEEP!

WHAT'S THIS?
OH, THAT?
FATHER GAVE IT TO ME TODAY, SAYING THAT IT'S A GIFT FROM SOMEONE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH AN EXQUISITE PIECE OF WORK.
HEY, DON'T BREAK IT! I CAN SELL IT FOR A PRETTY GOOD PRICE IN THE MARKET.
IN THE MARKET?
AH, I WAS JUST KIDDING. I'LL USE IT PROPERLY.
SINCE IT'S A KIND THOUGHT FROM THE SENDER.
...I SEE.


JUST GIVE IT BACK TO ME.
GIVE IT BACK!
AH!
LADY KOU, PLEASE, HAVE SOME GREEN TEA...
Ah!
RATTLES
KOU-KOURIN! PLEASE, DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA, THIS...
Takes

BLUSH
THANKS.
UWAH! THEY LOOK LIKE THEY JUST WALKED OUT OF A PAINTING.
LIKE SOME YOUNG COUPLE WHO JUST FELL IN LOVE...
ER... DO I NEED TO FETCH YOUR SUPPER TONIGHT?
BLUSH
BY SUPPER, DO YOU MEAN A MEAL AFTER DINNER?
YOU'LL GET FAT THAT WAY.
Glance
EH?
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT. YOU'RE DISMISSED.
YES, SIR. I'LL LEAVE NOW.
WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?


WHAT?!
I NEVER ASKED YOU ABOUT THAT!
NO.
I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT MY PARTNERS DO.
THIS...
?
YOU MIGHT AS WELL CALL IT AN 'APHRODISIAC'.
RATHER THAN 'SUPPER',
THIS HAREM...
AH! THIS HAREM...
SOBS
The pains of being poor!
I REALLY WANT TO BREAK THIS ON HIS HEAD, BUT I DON'T WANT TO DAMAGE SOMETHING THIS EXPENSIVE...
Drinks
Ah?
What are you doing there?

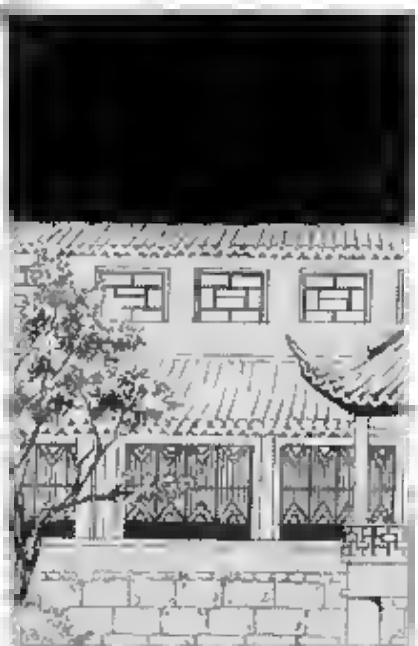
I WANTED TO BE THE FIRST TO DRINK FROM THAT CUP!!
BITTER!
Ah, you finished it.
I WANTED TO STAY UP TONIGHT TO READ...
Then, don't drink it!
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP WITH TEA THAT THICK.
500 pieces of gold!
500 pieces of gold!
GRABS
DON'T READ. AREN'T YOU GOING TO TELL ME A STORY TONIGHT?
YOU WEREN'T LISTENING TO ME!

YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY THE ERHU?

I'M NOT AS GOOD AS THE COURT MUSICIANS.

Don't laugh at me.

BUT I'LL TELL YOU THE STORY AS I PLAY.



SHOUKA-SAMA TAUGHT HIM HIS BOOKS.
AND SOU-TAIFU TRAINED HIM IN THE SOWRD.
IN BOTH FIELDS OF ACADEMICS AND MARTIAL ARTS, HIS TEACHERS ARE THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HIS MAJESTY HAS BEEN LEARNING FROM THEM FOR MORE THAN A DECADE.
THERE MUST BE SOME HIDDEN REASON.
LUCKY ASS. TO BE TAUGHT PERSONALLY BY SHOUKA-SAMA.
IT SEEMS THAT HE FIRST MET SOU-TAIFU IN THE ARCHIVES, TOO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HIS MAJESTY MADE IT THROUGH.
Sou-Taifu's teaching style was so strict that even after he retired, he was never asked to be a trainer with the military.

You jerk!
YOU KNEW RIGHT FROM THE START THAT HIS MAJESTY WAS ONLY PLAYING THE FOOL, DIDN'T YOU?
AN UNSUPPORTED YOUNGEST PRINCE...
I CAN UNDERSTAND HIS REASONS FOR SPENDING HIS TIME IN THE ARCHIVES.
Nobody expected anything from him. He was that insignificant.
An annoying existence. An unnecessary child.
Fu
I COULD TELL AT FIRST SIGHT.
HE PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN REALIZE THIS.
THE WAY HE WALKS, THE WAY HE TAKES IN HIS SURROUNDINGS, THEY ARE ALL THE MARKINGS OF ONE TRAINED IN THE MARTIAL ARTS. IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN PICK UP FROM THE USUAL COURT ETIQUETTE.
HE'S PROBABLY AMAZING WITH THE SWORD.
I WANT TO SPAR WITH HIM SO BADLY...
THOUGH I HAVE NO IDEA HOW GOOD HE IS NOW.

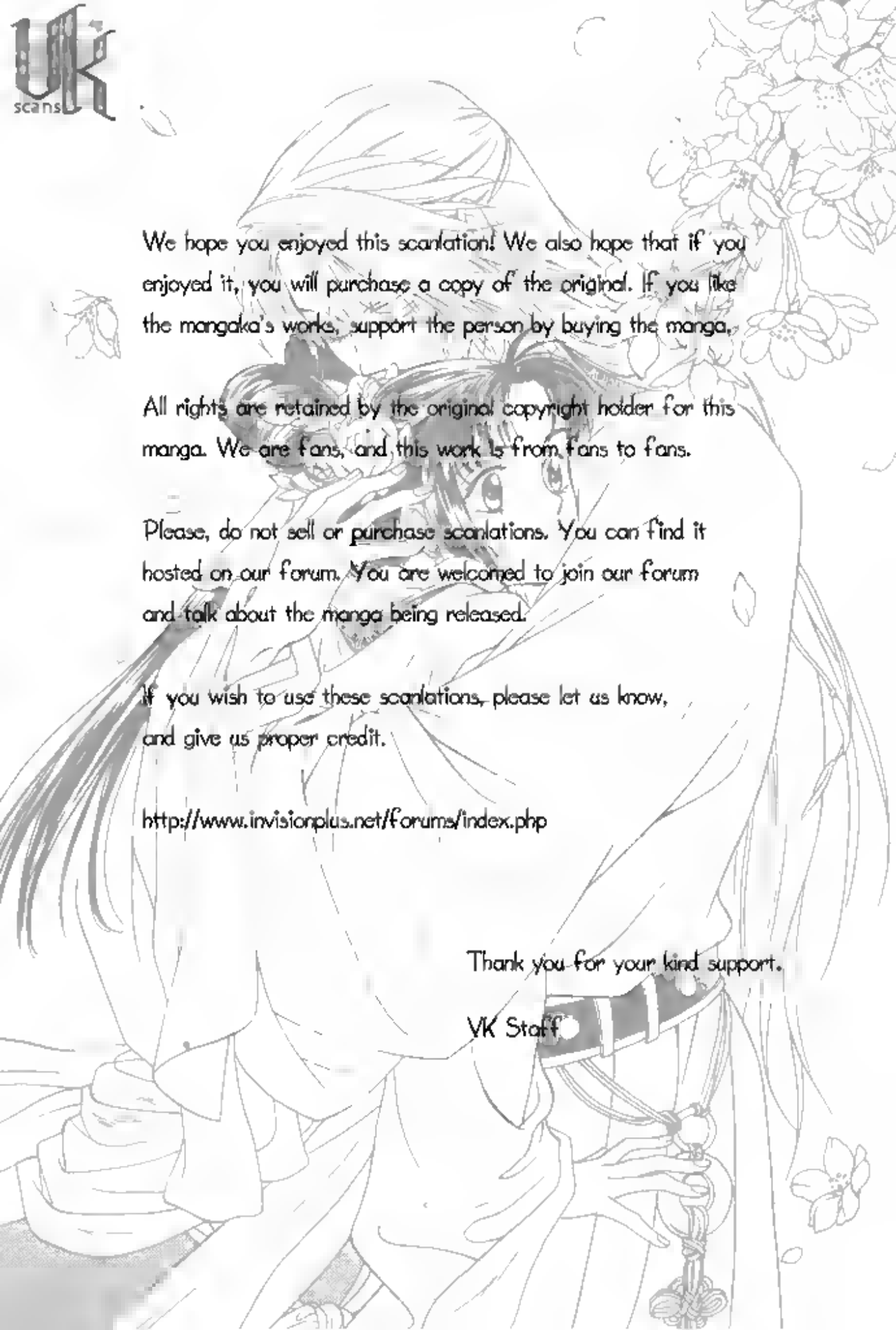
HOW CAN ANYONE ABSORB KNOWLEDGE THAT FAST?
I THOUGHT YOU'D PICKED IT UP YOURSELF.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
SHUUREI IS TRULY PLEASED WITH HIS 'LEARNING SPEED'.
BUT FOR SOMETHING I SPENT YEARS STUDYING, NOBODY COULD PICK IT UP WITHIN JUST A FEW MONTHS.
EXACTLY.
...YOU DON'T LOOK VERY HAPPY.
WHATEVER THE CASE, HIS STUPIDITY WAS ALL AN ACT.

WHETHER OR NOT HE WANTS TO STRIVE IN HIS DUTIES,
What I want is a real emperor!
EVEN IF HE'S TALENTED, IF HE DOESN'T PUT IT INTO GOOD USE, HE'S JUST A FOOLISH, STUBBORN EMPEROR.
THAT'S HIS MAJESTY'S DECISION. I WON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
TO WAIT AND SEE SILENTLY...?
RAN SHUUEI IS A MAN WHO WILL BE COMLPETELY LOYAL, ONCE HE'S DECIDED ON A LEADER TO FOLLOW.
SINCE YOU'VE TOLD ME WHAT YOU HAD PLANNED NOT TO REVEAL, DOES THIS MEAN THAT YOU STILL HAVE SOME FAITH IN HIM?
WILL THAT EMPEROR BE THE ONE?

...
You look so happy once you start talking about women.
YES, SHUURE! IS DOING A GOOD JOB. ONLY...
IF SHE FINDS OUT THAT HIS MAJESTY WAS ONLY PRETENDING, WHAT WILL SHE DO?
SMILE
PERHAPS. IT'S ALL THANKS TO LADY SHUURE! THAT HE DECIDED TO BUCK UP.
OH YES~
WHAT DID YOUR SUPERIOR ASK YOU TO PASS TO SHOUKA-SAMA?
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
HE DESERVES IT.
SHE'LL BE VERY ANGRY, I SUPPOSE.
-SO, WHAT WAS IT?
SHUT UP! THAT'S BECAUSE THE SIGNS WERE...
I HEARD THAT YOU LOITERED AROUND THE SECRETARIAT FOR SOME TIME...
ALTHOUGH YOUR DESTINATION SEEMED TO BE THE ARCHIVES.

IT'S...

(SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI VOL 1 CH3 / END)



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SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI

CHAPTER 04

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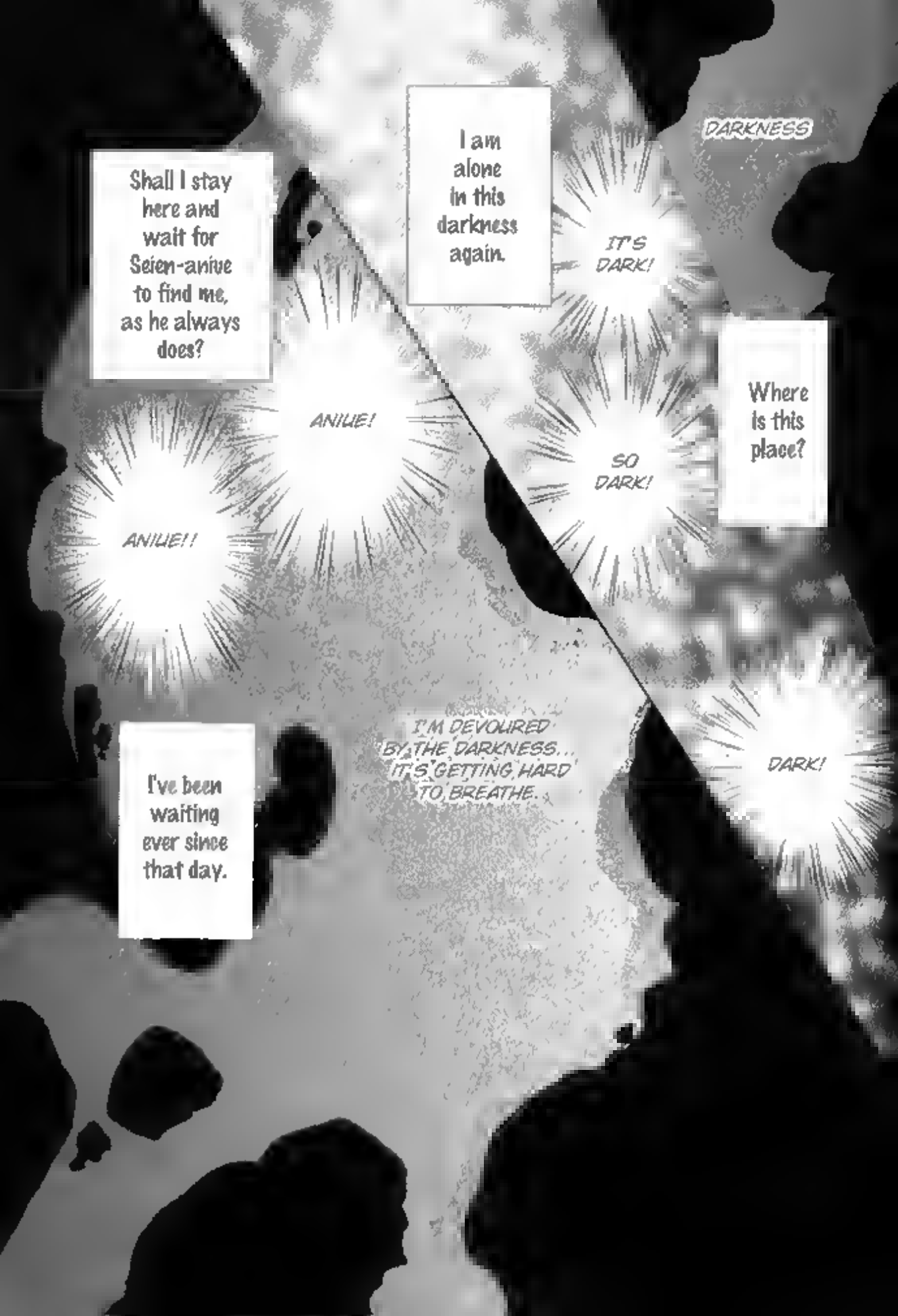
SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI

CHAPTER 04

Granting flower.
The king shows the flower,
the subjects accept it.
The meaning which is entrusted in the idea of flower is different, but it is all the life.
It is a promission which is always true.
It proves a definite trust and loyalty.

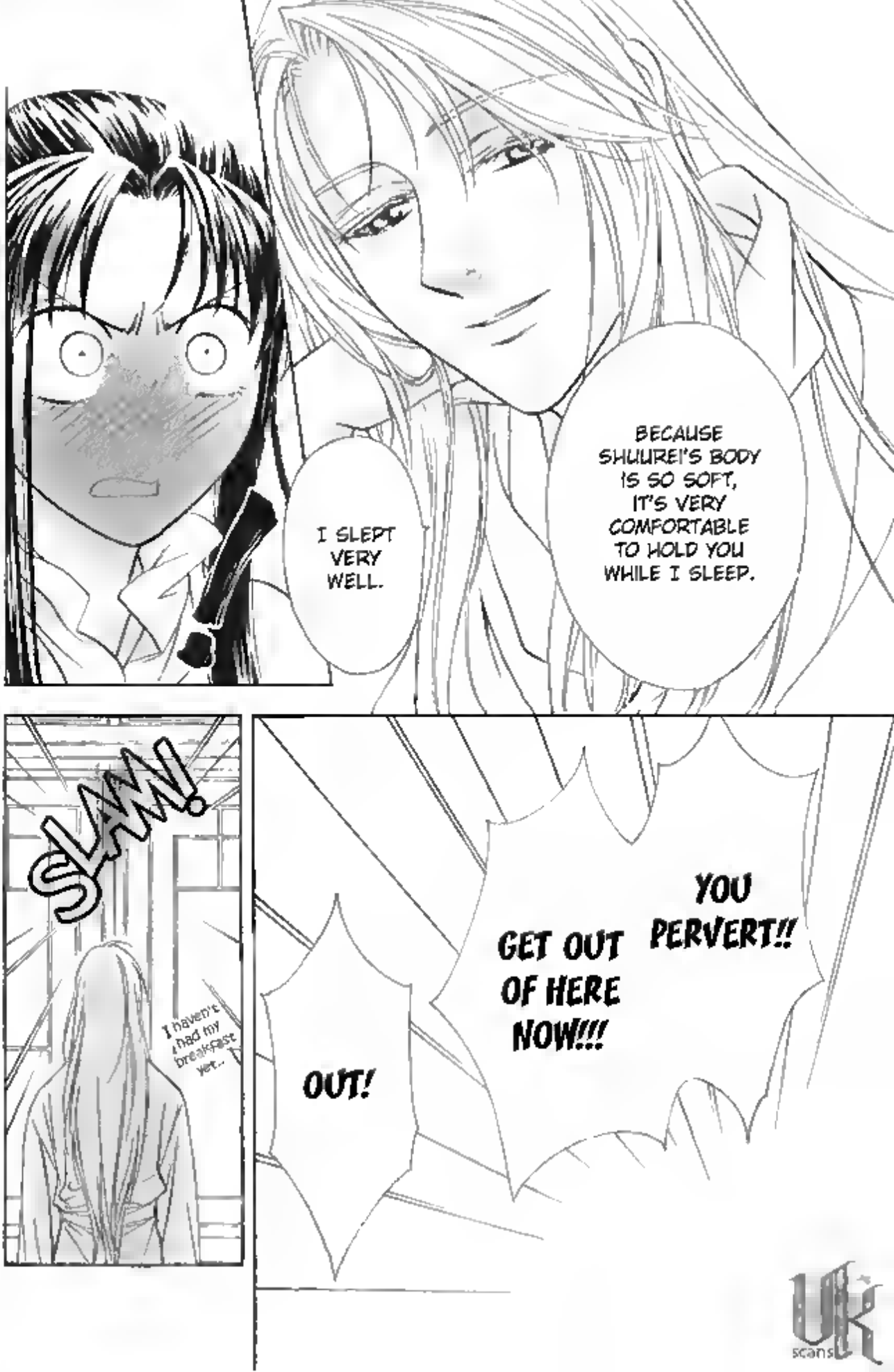

I am alone in this darkness again.
DARKNESS
IT'S DARK!
Shall I stay here and wait for Seien-aniue to find me, as he always does?
ANIUE!
ANIUE!!
SO DARK!
Where is this place?
I'M DEVOURED BY THE DARKNESS... IT'S GETTING HARD TO BREATHE.
DARK!
I've been waiting ever since that day.

Pant
Pant
SHUUIRE!?
Ah..a?
WHO
...
SHUU
...
zzz...
RLEAD

SILVER REACTS WITH POISON.
I SUPPOSE THIS SILVER CUP ACTS LIKE AN ALARM.
THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE PALACE WHO PLANS TO HARM LADY KOU!
THOUGH IT'S ONLY IN SMALL AMOUNTS NOW...
I'M KINDA USED TO THIS AMOUNT OF POISON ALREADY

W-W-WH... WHAT?
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN!!?
I WAS SLEEPING AT THE CORNER OF THE ROOM WITH MY BOLSTER LAST NIGHT!

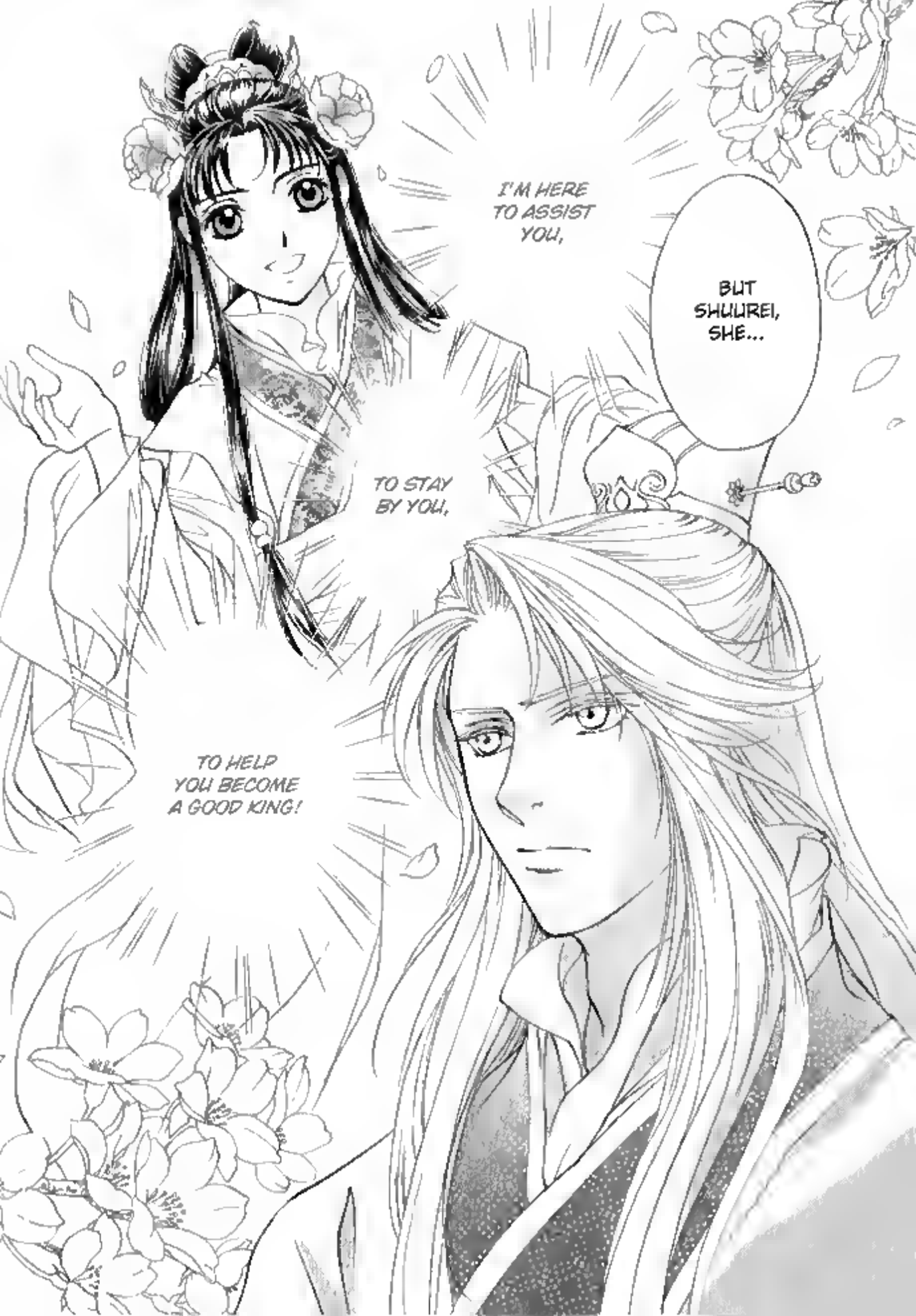
KYAAA!!
SO, HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
I CARRIED YOU HERE LAST NIGHT.
Uhm...
BUT, WHY?!
WITH SUCH A COMFORTABLE BED, YOU DON'T NEED TO SLEEP ON THE FLOOR.
BUT I WANT TO SLEEP ON THE FLOOR.
YOU WILL ACHE IF YOU SLEEP ON THE HARD FLOOR ALL NIGHT.
EVEN SO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SLEEP WITH ME IN THIS POSITION!!
Let go of me!!


I SLEPT VERY WELL.
BECAUSE SHUUREI'S BODY IS SO SOFT, IT'S VERY COMFORTABLE TO HOLD YOU WHILE I SLEEP.
YOU PERVERT!!
GET OUT OF HERE NOW!!!
OUT!
SLAM!
I haven't had my breakfast yet...

OH? IT'S ONLY YOUR MAJESTY HERE FOR LESSONS TODAY?
THE LADY... SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE TIRED.
YES, IT'S ONLY ME.
I TRIED.
and hurt her
smile
smile
WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE HAVING A HEIR IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM.
THAT WON'T DO. YOUR MAJESTY, NO MATTER HOW LOVABLE LADY KOU IS, SHE'S ONLY A YOUNG GIRL.
YOU SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TO HER HEALTH.

WHAT DOES YOUR MAJESTY THINK? MY GRANDDAUGHTER'S BEAUTY CAN DEFINITELY MATCH UP TO LADY KOU, AND SHE'S RATHER MILD TEMPERED, TOO.
...
IF YOUR MAJESTY HAS ANY MIND TO EXPAND YOUR HAREM, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.
YOUR MAJESTY IS COMPLETELY ENTHRALLED BY LADY KOU, ISN'T IT SO?
YOU GOT ME EMBARRASSED INSTEAD.
?
PATS PATS
Oh
I ONLY NEED ONE CONCUBINE, AND THAT'S SHUUREI.
I DON'T NEED ANYONE ELSE.

TO THOSE WHO THINK THIS WAY, "LADY KOU" IS DEFINITELY AN ANNOYING PRESENCE.
IF ONE CAN HAVE THE EMPEROR'S LOVE ALL TO ONESELF, AND GIVE BIRTH TO THE NEXT HEIR, ONE WILL HAVE ALL THE AUTHORITY ONE WANTS.
IF THE EMPEROR, WHO'VE NEVER SHOWN INTEREST IN WOMEN, TAKES A CONCUBINE NOW
EVERY NOBLE WITH A DAUGHTER OF A SUITABLE AGE WILL OF COURSE START TO ACT.
I DON'T NEED A CONCUBINE.
IF ONLY I WEREN'T KING...
I DON'T NEED CHILDREN.
I ONLY WANT SHUREI, THAT'S ALL.


I'M HERE TO ASSIST YOU,
BUT SHUUREI, SHE...
TO STAY BY YOU,
TO HELP YOU BECOME A GOOD KING!

LI KOUYUU-DONO,
RAN SHUUEI-DONO,
HIS MAJESTY HAS ORDERED ME TO HAND THIS TO THE BOTH OF YOU.
HIS MAJESTY WANTS TO GIVE THIS TO US?

HA.
SNIGGERS
THAT'S A PROBLEM. I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO DO THIS.
SHUUEI?
...
TWO STALKS OF IRISES? THIS IS...
GREAT EMERGENCY... AH, I SEE.
I'VE MENTIONED THAT TO HIS MAJESTY, BUT HIS MAJESTY INSISTED THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF GREAT EMERGENCY.
RATHER SLIPSHOD.
BUT IT IS UNUSUAL TO PRESENT FRESH FLOWERS, ISN'T IT?

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
...
WELL, I'LL CONSIDER THAT HE PASSED.
SWOO
PLEASE, PASS THE MESSAGE TO HIS MAJESTY THAT...
I'VE ACCEPTED.
YES.
OH, WHATEVER.

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO ACCEPT IT SO EASILY.
ME, NEITHER.
UNTIL A SHORT WHILE AGO.
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D SEND PURPLE IRISES...
The flower language for irises is "I trust you".
At the same time, the narrow swordlike leaves surrounding flowers of the royal purple,
Also known as the "Swordsman of Flower".
Its hidden message is...

"PROTECT THE FLOWER OF THE KING".
TO COMMUNICATE TWO MESSAGES WITH THIS "FLOWER", THIS HAND IS WELL PLAYED.
WE ARE PROBABLY THE ONLY TWO WHO WILL SEE THIS.
I LIKE THIS UNIQUE GESTURE VERY MUCH.
WHETHER OR NOT IT'S UNIQUE,
IT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.

YES, SINCE WE'VE ACCEPTED HIS "FLOWERS".
ALRIGHT, LET US GET CRACKING!

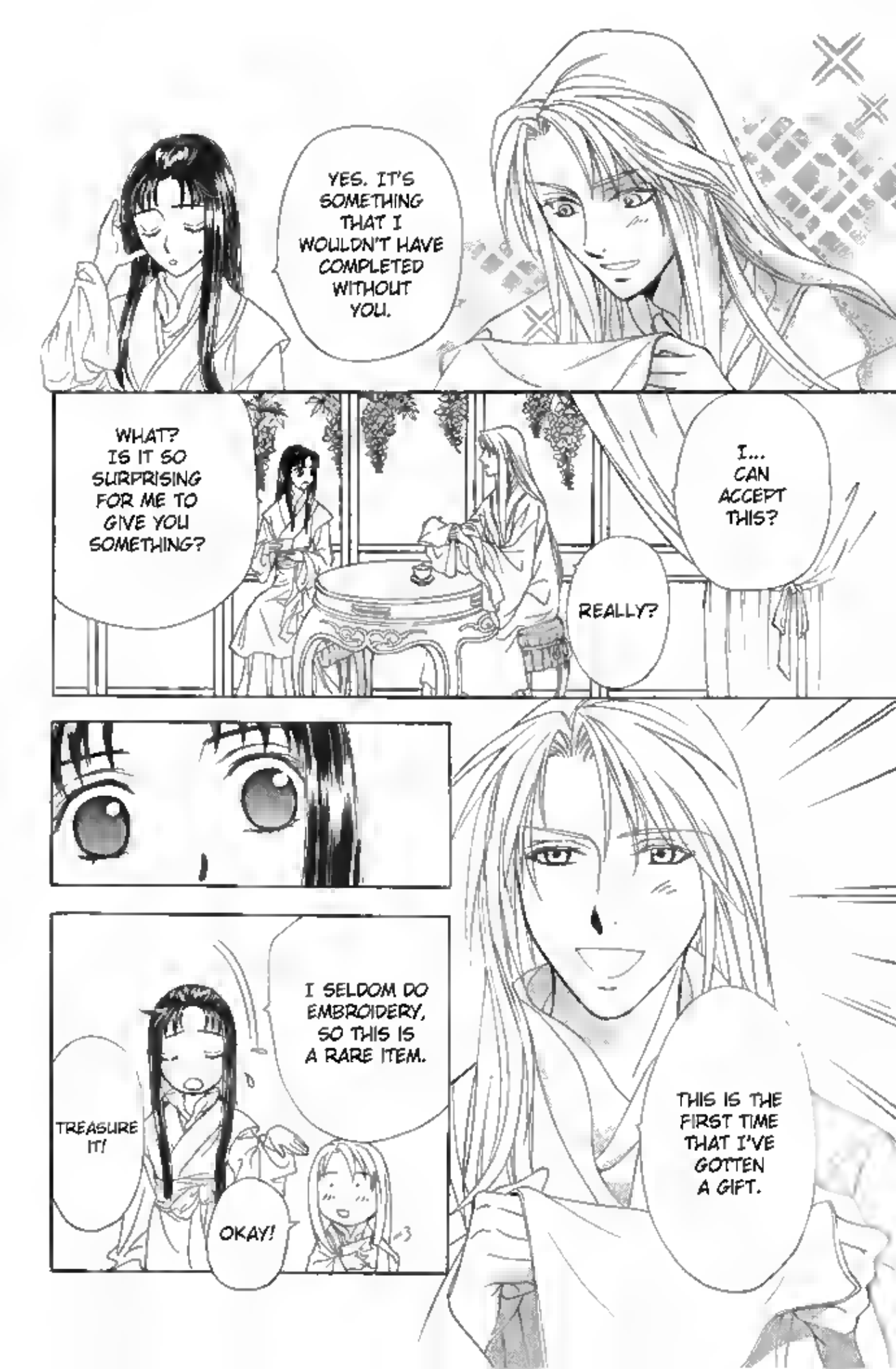
Argh! This is irritating!!!
That stupid king!!
How can he say such embarrassing things with a straight face!!?
STABS
YE-YES, KOURIN?
If only this isn't the harem...
IT MAKES ME WANT TO SLAM HIS FACE AGAINST THE FLOOR REPEATEDLY!
ARGH
LADY KOU?
POKE POKE POKE POKE POKE POKE POKE POKE POKE POKE
I'M FINE. JUST A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE.
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
I'M TOO EMBARRASSED TO SEE ANYONE RIGHT NOW!!
I'LL LIKE TO STAY INDOORS TO DO SOME EMBROIDERY TODAY.

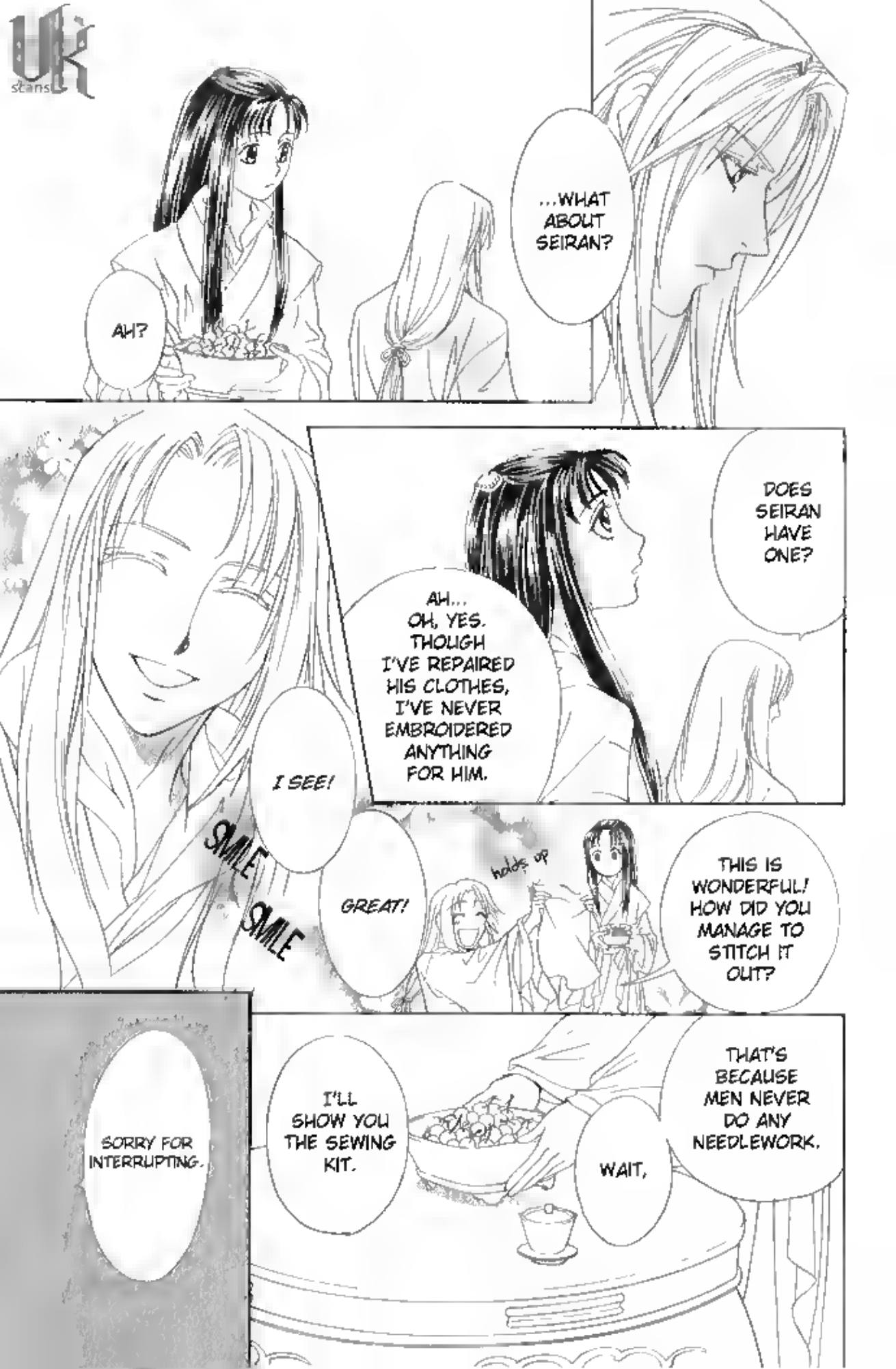
OUCH!
TCH
! Damn!
YOUR DISCOMFORT IS PROOF THAT HIS MAJESTY DOTES ON YOU.
SYUSUI... IF YOU WANT TO LAUGH, JUST DO SO!
I...I'LL DRESS IT FOR YOU.
LADY SHUURE! ...
LADY KOU HAS SUCH NIMBLE HANDS!
WHAT A LOVELY PIECE OF EMBROIDERY.
UNLIKE ME. I'M TERRIBLE AT SUCH NEEDLEWORK.

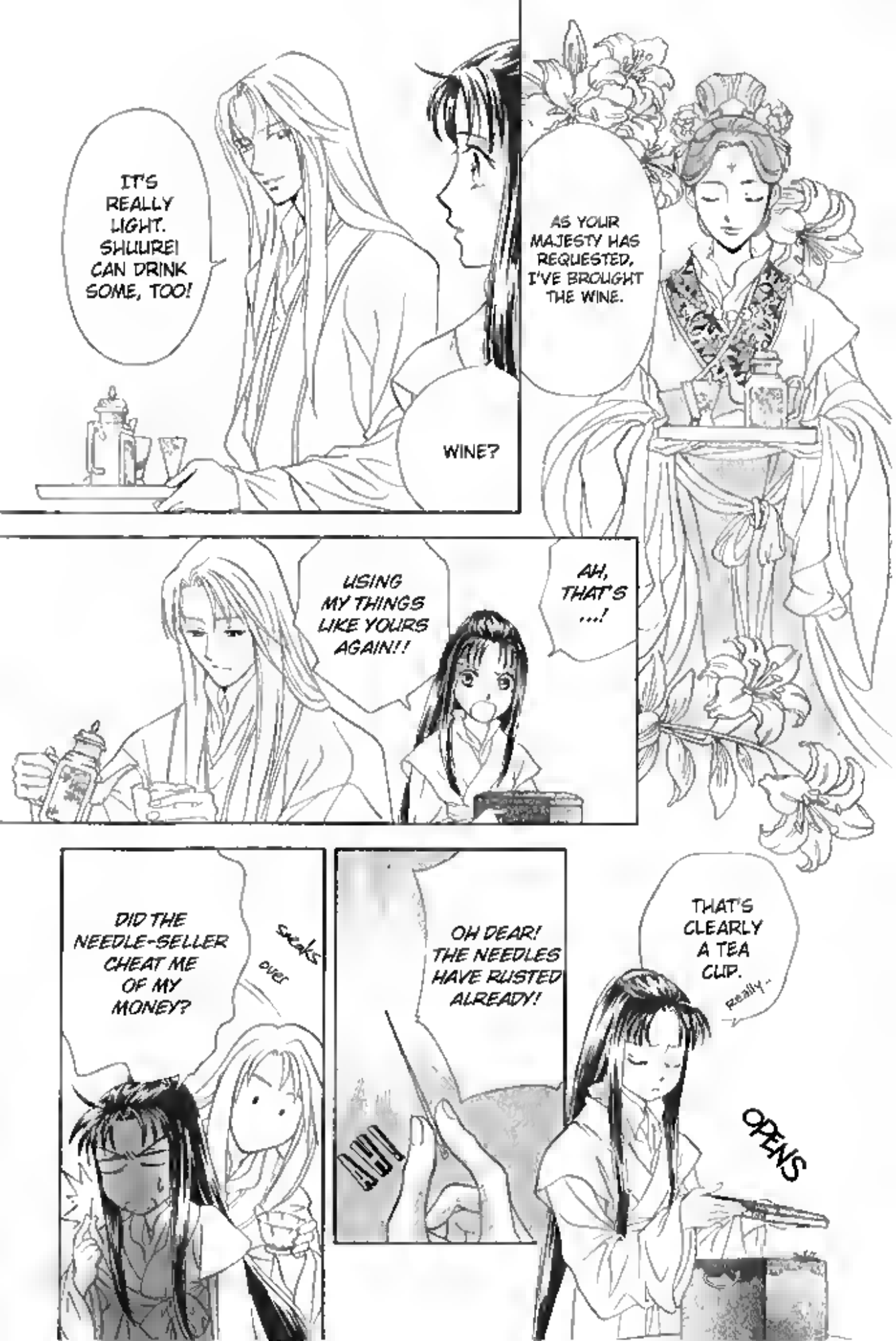
REA-
REALLY?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST DID SOME EMBROIDERY.
Giggles
I CAN'T SAY THAT IT'S BECAUSE I USED TO REPAIR CLOTHING SINCE WE WERE TOO POOR!
DO YOU PLAN TO GIVE IT TO SOMEONE?
SOBS
WHAT DO YOU THINK? IF YOU DON'T MIND, I CAN TEACH YOU.
I WONDER WHO THAT PERSON IS, TO BE LOVED BY SUCH A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL.
IT MUST BE A VERY IMPORTANT SOMEONE. I ENVY YOU.
SERIOUS
HOHO! I'VE GUESSED IT RIGHT!
BLUSH

DOESN'T LADY KOU HAVE HIS MAJESTY, TOO?
Eh?
THE TWO OF YOU ARE NEVER APART. HOW ENVIABLE.
I SUPPOSE HIS MAJESTY WILL BE HERE TONIGHT, TOO.
AND TOMORROW.
AND THE DAY AFTER.
Ah, Syusui! Do you want to learn, too?
Come, here! Sit, sit!!
I'M SO ENVIOUS ...
YOU ARE SO GOOD AT EVERYTHING ELSE THAT I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO ACTUALLY BE BAD AT SOMETHING!
NOT GOOD AT IT?
THIS...
WELL, NEEDLEWORK ... I'M...

AH...
SYUSUI SHOULD GIVE THIS TO YOUR MOST IMPORTANT SOMEONE, TOO!
WELL, OVERCOME IT, THEN!
Y-YES ...
DO YOU FEEL A LITTLE MORE MOTIVATED NOW?
THIS IS FOR ME?
EVERY BIT OF FEELING FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE
TO STITCH IN. .


YES. IT'S SOMETHING THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE COMPLETED WITHOUT YOU.
WHAT? IS IT SO SURPRISING FOR ME TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING?
I... CAN ACCEPT THIS?
REALLY?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I'VE GOTTEN A GIFT.
I SELDOM DO EMBROIDERY, SO THIS IS A RARE ITEM.
TREASURE IT!
OKAY!


AH?
...WHAT ABOUT SEIRAN?
DOES SEIRAN HAVE ONE?
AH... OH, YES. THOUGH I'VE REPAIRED HIS CLOTHES, I'VE NEVER EMBROIDERED ANYTHING FOR HIM.
I SEE!
SMILE SMILE
GREAT!
holds up
THIS IS WONDERFUL! HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO STITCH IT OUT?
SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING.
I'LL SHOW YOU THE SEWING KIT.
WAIT,
THAT'S BECAUSE MEN NEVER DO ANY NEEDLEWORK.


IT'S REALLY LIGHT. SHIURE! CAN DRINK SOME, TOO!
WINE?
AS YOUR MAJESTY HAS REQUESTED, I'VE BROUGHT THE WINE.
USING MY THINGS LIKE YOURS AGAIN!!
AH, THAT'S ...!
DID THE NEEDLE-SELLER CHEAT ME OF MY MONEY?
sneaks over
OH DEAR! THE NEEDLES HAVE RUSTED ALREADY!
THAT'S CLEARLY A TEA CUP.
really..
OPENS

SHUUREI, WHAT'S THAT USED FOR?
WHICH?
AH!!
SPILL
THAT ONE...
AH?
YOU, YOU, YOU.... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE??!!!!
AH...
ROLLS

URGH!! JUST THAT LITTLE BIT OF SILK IN THAT CAN BE SOLD FOR A LOT OF MONEY!
!?
...is that what you're worried about?
THAT... SORRY.
I'LL GET SOMEONE TO SEND A NEW BOX...
IDIOT!! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I CAN JUST WASH IT!
HERE!! I'll clean the stains out of the carpet, you will go and drain the wine out of the box!!
AL... ALRIGHT!
I'VE DONE AS YOU ORDERED.
THANKS.

REALLY ...
Oi, the number isn't right!
JUST LOOKING AT THAT SLEEPING FACE,
HE'S THE PERFECT GENTLEMAN.
THE YOUNG KING OF SAIUNKOKU IS JUST AN IGNORANT AND PAMPERED BOY.
POWER OR WEALTH, HE HAD EVERYTHING GIVEN TO HIM ON A PLATE. A BLESSED LIFE...
HAD HE BEEN A WISE KING, I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STAY BY HIM LIKE THIS.

THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THIS EARTH WHO ARE FAVORED BY THE GODS, AFTER ALL.
IF ONLY ...
I WERE A LITTLE PRETTIER ...
BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH TO FIT INTO THIS PALACE.
BUT THAT WON'T BE "ME" ANYMORE.
EVEN IF I'M CLAD IN RICHES,
PERFECTLY MANNERED,
I'LL NEVER BE A REAL LADY.
JUST LIKE THIS PAIR OF HANDS ...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE INCURABLE AT FIRST.
BUT YOU'VE WORKED HARD.
I suppose that day isn't far from now.
ONE DAY, FATHER, SEIRAN AND I...
WILL RETURN TO LIVING WITH JUST THE THREE OF US AGAIN.
RETURN TO THE LIFE THAT WE ARE USED TO.
ONCE I RETURN HOME,
THERE WILL BE MANY LADIES FROM THE OTHER NOBLE FAMILIES SHUFFLING INTO THE PALACE.
ONLY A BEAUTIFUL, WELL BROUGHT UP LADY IS SUITED FOR SUCH A HANDSOME KING.
YOU ARE LOOKING MORE AND MORE LIKE A KING ALREADY.

THOUGH I'LL BE A LITTLE LONELY...
caress
GOOD NIGHT.

SHUU ...
SHUUREI?
IT'S DARK!
THERE'S NOBODY... AROUND...!!
RUMBLE
!
THIS IS...

AHHHHHH!!!
THUMP
WHAT... WHAT'S WRONG?
IS THERE SOMEONE WHO HAS HIS EYES ON THE EMPEROR'S LIFE?
RYUUKI!?

DON'T ...
...
RYUUKI?
WHERE?
WHERE DOES IT HURT?
AH...
GRABS!
RYUUKI!
UH ...
UWAH ...
AH ...
WHAT HAPPENED?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

OUCH!
IT... HURTS...
W-WAIT ...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
LADY SHUURE! ...
IS THERE A THIEF?
I'LL TRY TO COMFORT HIM. DON'T RAISE A RUCKUS, PLEASE.
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
BUT, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIS MAJESTY.

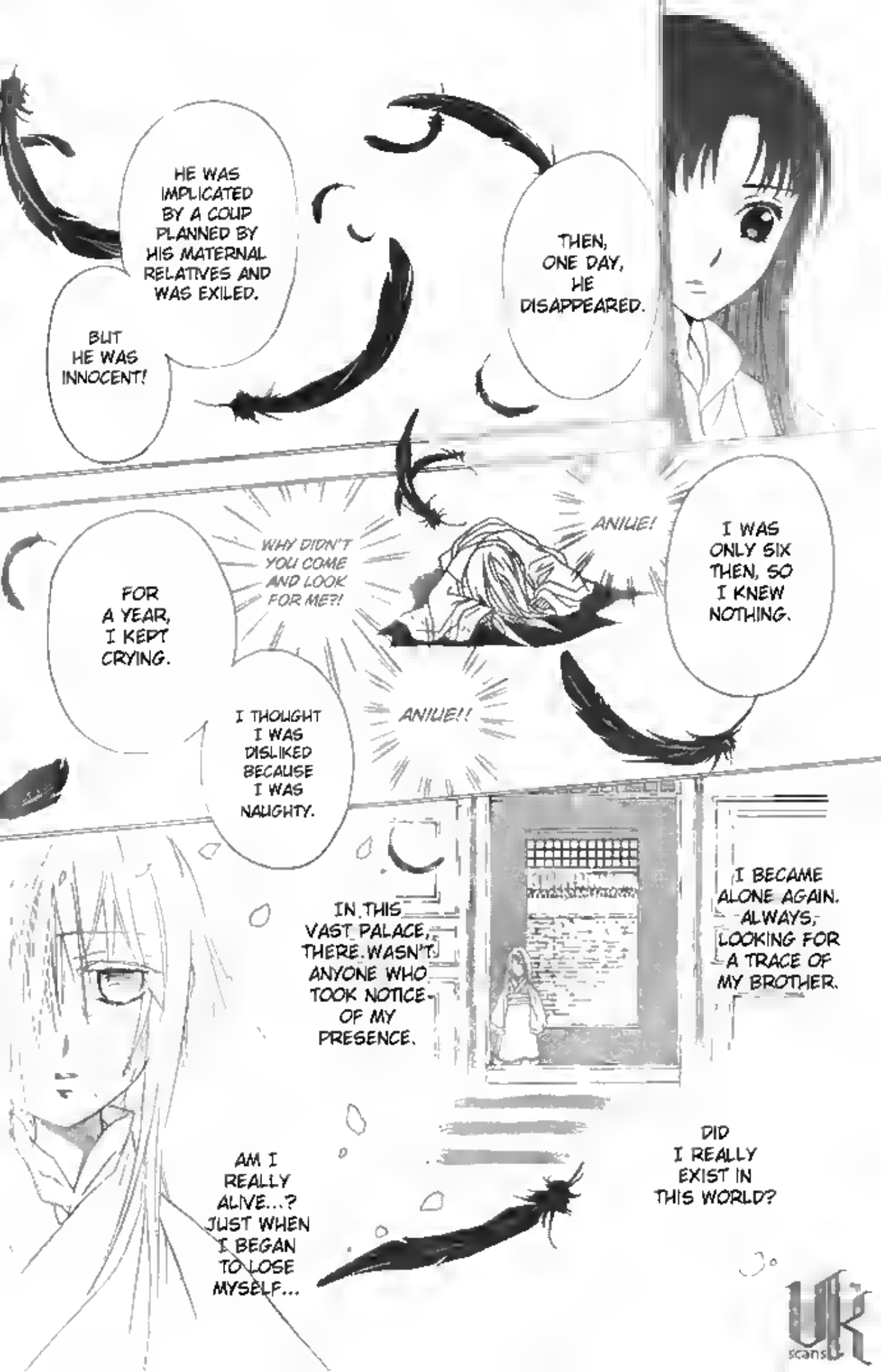
I UNDERSTAND. PLEASE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE.
BUT... ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
HURTS LIKE I'M GOING TO DIE, BUT I CAN STILL TAKE IT.
DON'T WORRY. YOU ARE DISMISSED.
YES... BUT LADY SHUURE!,
PLEASE, AT LEAST CALL FOR ME BEFORE YOU ARE CRUSHED TO DEATH.
SYUSUI ...
DON'T CRACK JOKES LIKE THAT...
SQUEEZE
I NEED TO DO SOMETHING.
OH YES, THE ERHU!

ENOUGH ...
AH...OUCH. I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
PLEASE... WAKE UP!!

WHERE ...?
I COULDN'T FIND YOU ANYWHERE!
RYUUKI?
YES, IT'S ME.
ARE YOU FINE NOW?
SHUURE!?
I HATE BEING ALONE IN THE DARK!
I HATE THE DARKNESS.
WHY?
WAIT...

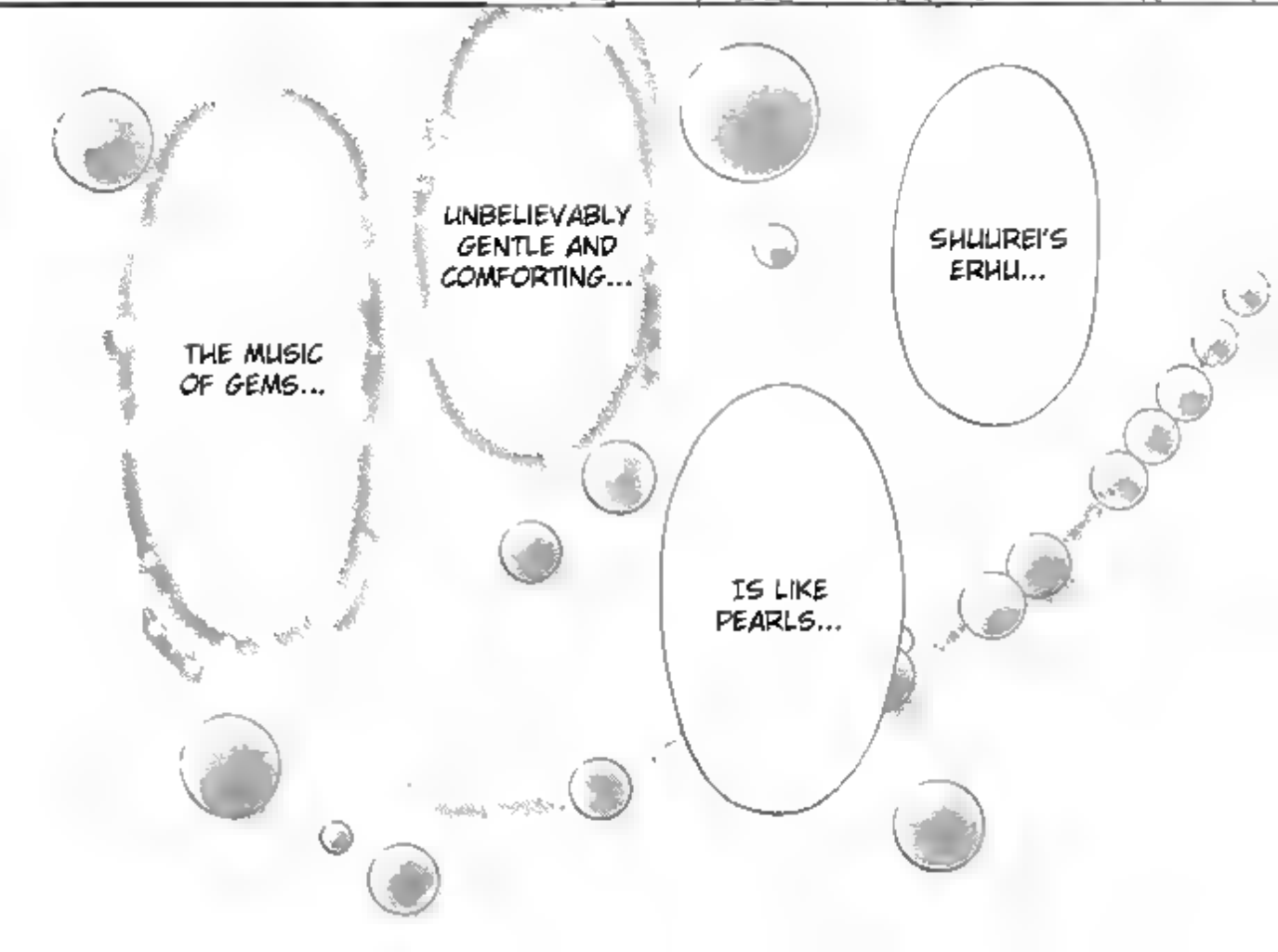
SHUUREI?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'M FINE. EXPLAIN YOURSELF!
EH?
BY WHO?
BY MOTHER AND MY BROTHERS.
I... USED TO BE... LOCKED UP...
IN THE DARK...
MOTHER...
OCCASSIONALLY, WHEN OUR EYES MET, THERE'S ALWAYS REJECTION.
I'M SORRY, MOTHER..
SOMETIMES SHE WOULD SHUT ME IN A PITCHBLACK HOLE FOR DAYS IN A ROW.
IF ONLY I DIDN'T GIVE BIRTH TO YOU!
MOTHER RESENTED ME FOR THIS...
AND DIDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO ME AFTER THAT.
I HATE THE SIGHT OF YOU!
BECAUSE I'M LIKE AN UNWANTED CHILD.
I'M THE YOUNGEST, SO I DIDN'T GET ANY LOVE FROM MY FATHER.

IT WASN'T USUAL FOR THEM TO THROW ME OUT IN THE GARDENS AT NIGHT FOR FUN.
I WAS A GOOD TARGET FOR THEM TO VENT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS ON.
THAT'S AROUND WHEN I WAS 3 OR 4... I THINK.
YOUR BROTHERS... TOO?
OH, GOD ...
squeeze
THAT'S... TOO MUCH!
WAS IT?
I DIDN'T CARE MUCH ABOUT THAT.
ALWAYS... I HAD SEIEN-ANIUE TO PROTECT ME.
SEIEN?
HE WAS THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME TO READ AND COUNT.
MY SECOND BROTHER.
AS LONG AS I HAD HIM BY MY SIDE, IT WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.


HE WAS IMPLICATED BY A COUP PLANNED BY HIS MATERNAL RELATIVES AND WAS EXILED.
BUT HE WAS INNOCENT!
THEN, ONE DAY, HE DISAPPEARED.
ANIUE!
I WAS ONLY SIX THEN, SO I KNEW NOTHING.
FOR A YEAR, I KEPT CRYING.
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME AND LOOK FOR ME?!
ANIUE!!
I THOUGHT I WAS DISLIKED BECAUSE I WAS NAUGHTY.
IN THIS VAST PALACE, THERE WASN'T ANYONE WHO TOOK NOTICE OF MY PRESENCE.
I BECAME ALONE AGAIN. ALWAYS, LOOKING FOR A TRACE OF MY BROTHER.
AM I REALLY ALIVE...? JUST WHEN I BEGAN TO LOSE MYSELF...
DID I REALLY EXIST IN THIS WORLD?

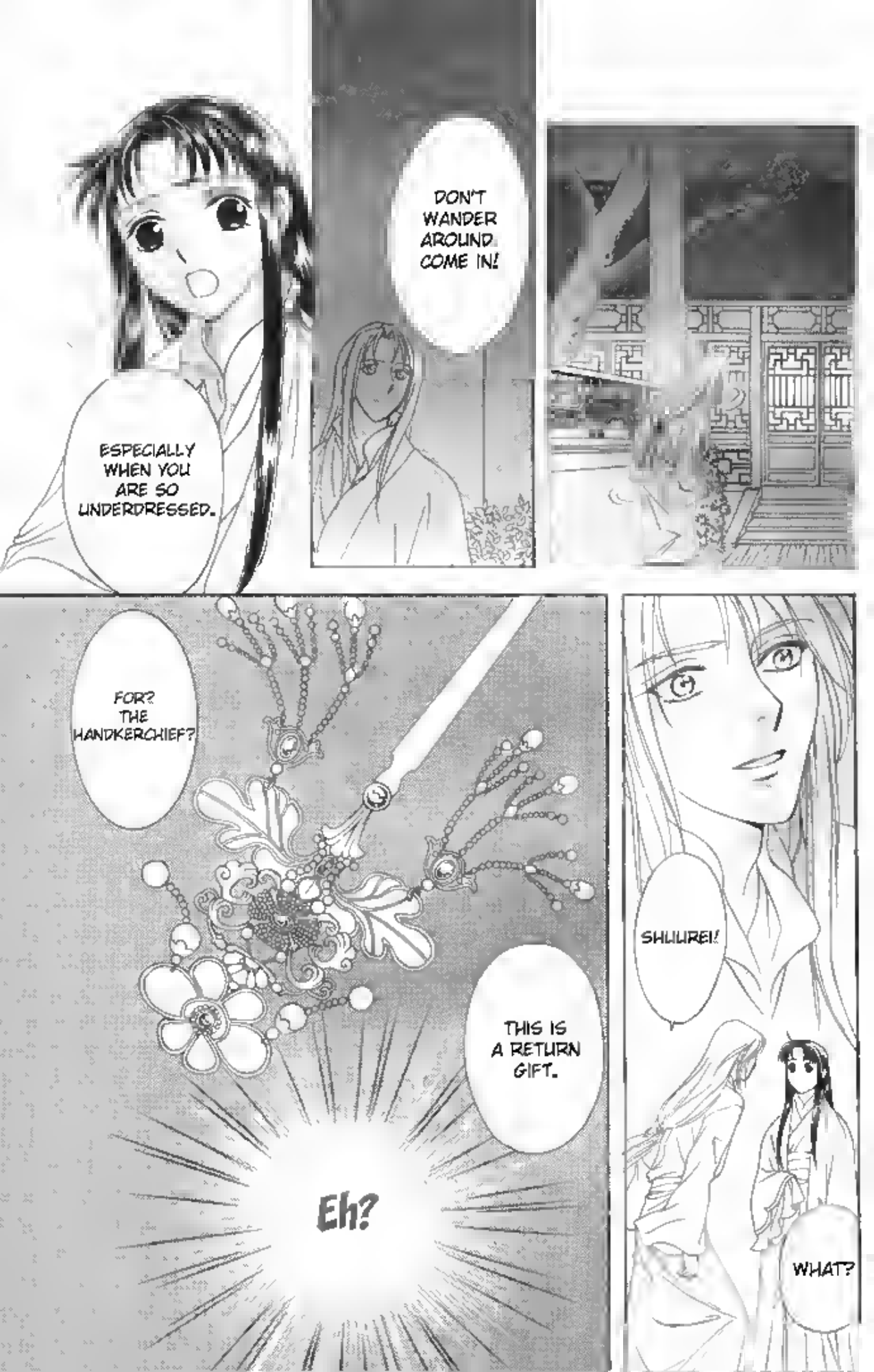
I MET SHOUKA.
YOU MET FATHER?
HE SMILED AT ME.
DO YOU WANT SOME TEA?
AND HENCE, I WAS NO LONGER ALONE IF I WAS AT THE ARCHIVES.
EVEN SO... I HATE THE NIGHT.
SLEEPING ALONE.
I HATE...
drip
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

I'M SUCH A FOOL!
I'M NOT CRYING!
SHUUREI, PLAY THE ERHU FOR ME.

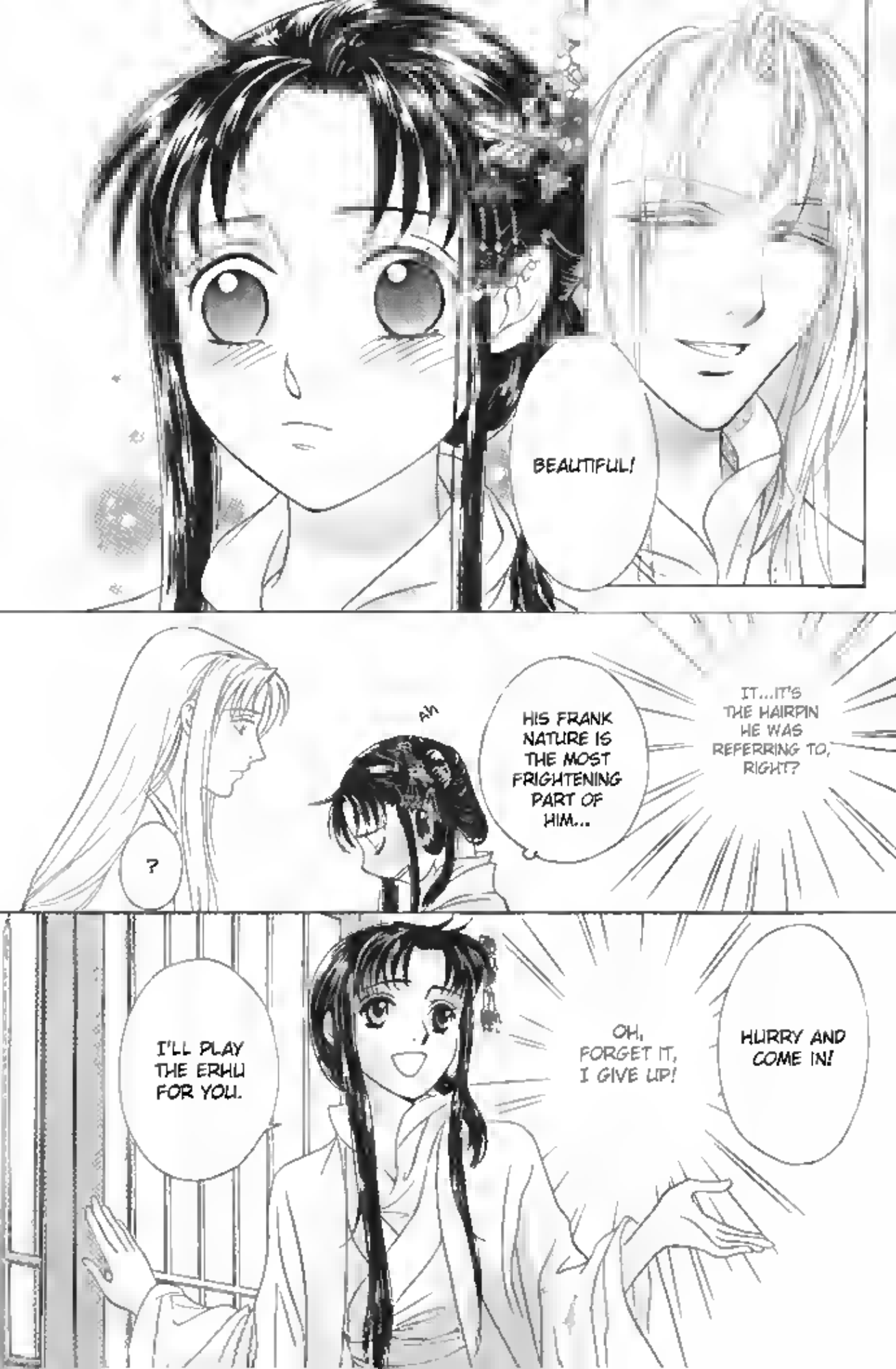

THE MUSIC OF GEMS...
UNBELIEVABLY GENTLE AND COMFORTING...
SHUUREI'S ERHU...
IS LIKE PEARLS...

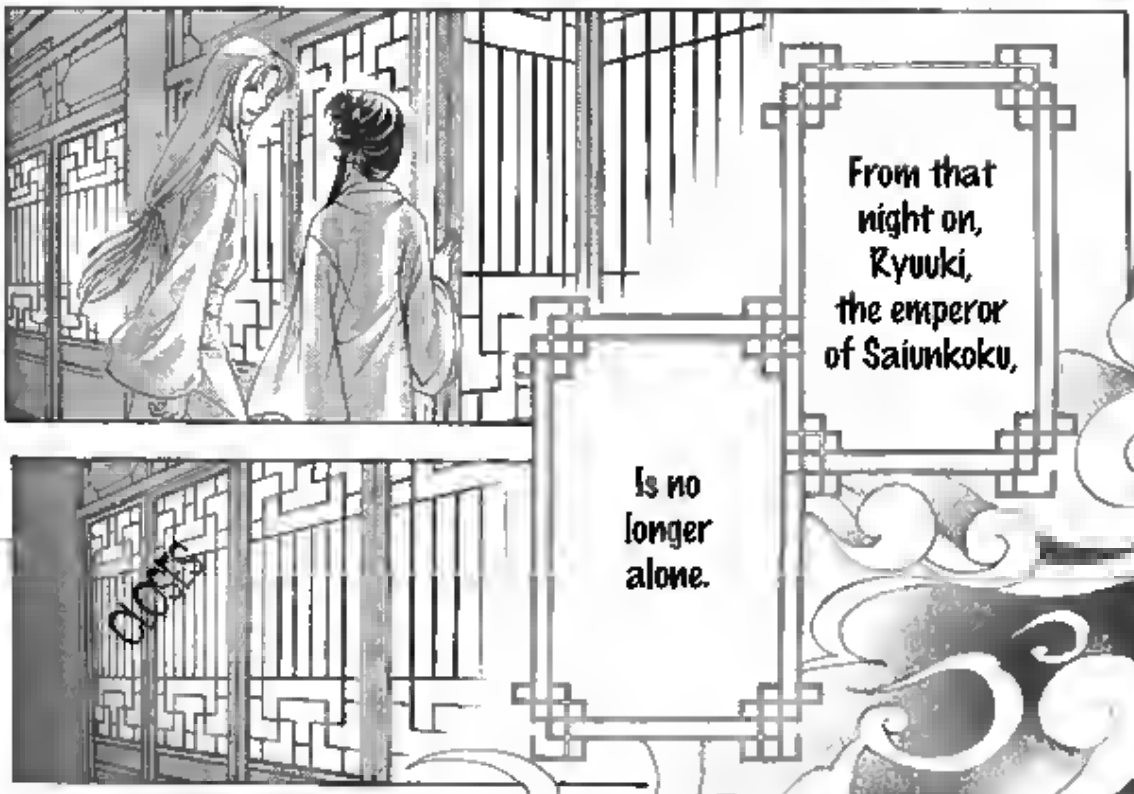
SHUURE!
...
OTHER THAN DRESSING HIS WOUNDS, THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE I COULD DO.
HE WAS ALWAYS BRUISED THEN.
SHUURE!
BUT WHAT MOST PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE, HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY OF THOSE.
A MOTHER'S LOVE...
GENTLE WORDS...
A WARM HAND...
HE HAS WHAT MOST PEOPLE DOESN'T HAVE.
EVERYTHING THAT OTHERS WOULD BE ENVIOUS ABOUT.

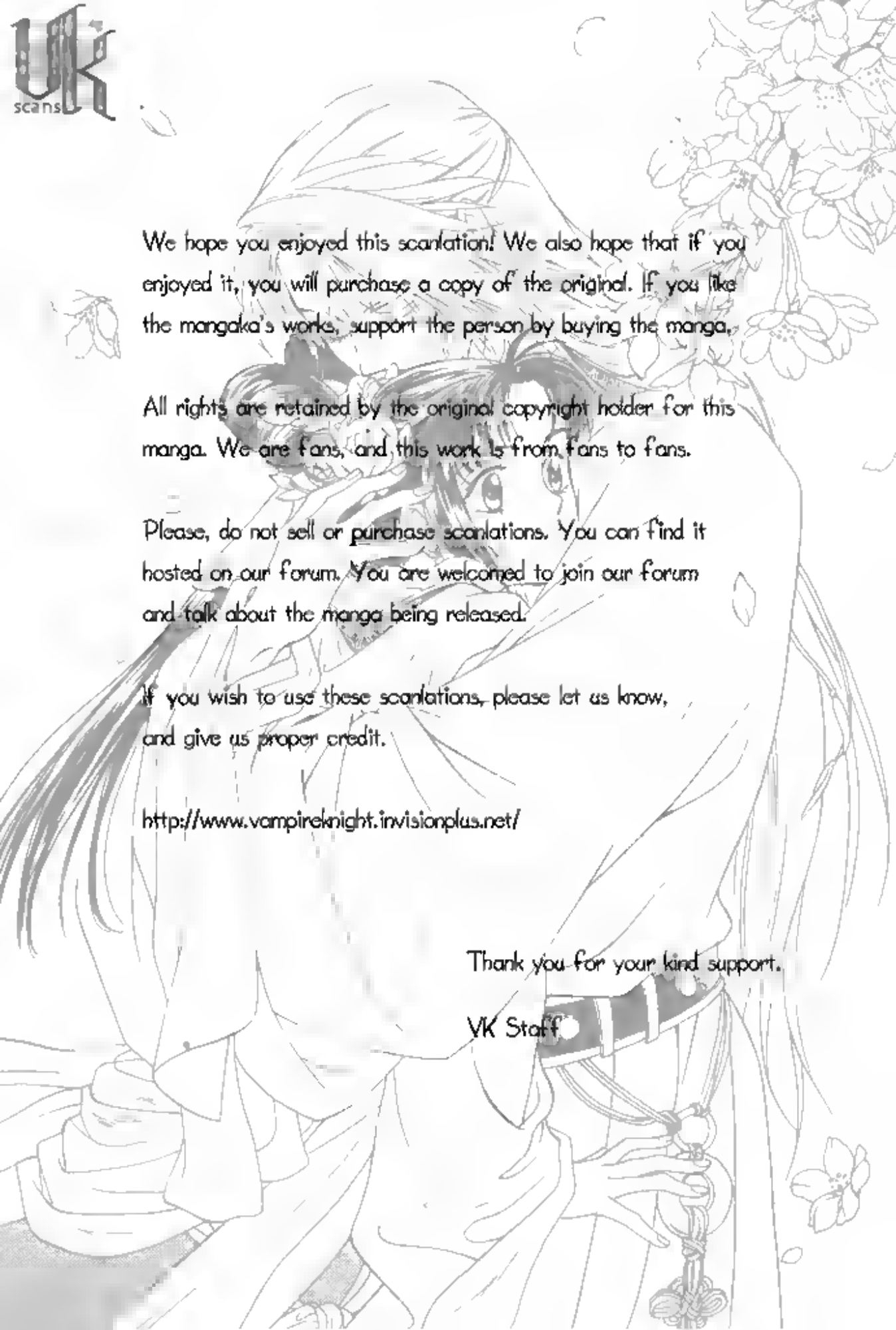
I...JUST PASSED JUDGEMENT ON HIM BASED ON RUMOURS.
EVEN IF I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT HIM...
I'M SO ASHAMED OF MYSELF ...
THE SORROW OF LOSS EVOLVED TO BECOME A GREATER DESPAIR.
HE SLEPT WITH A DIFFERENT MAN EVERY NIGHT BECAUSE HE COULDN'T FALL ASLEEP ALONE IN THE DARK.
THE WOUNDS IN HIS HEART HAD YET TO HEAL.
THE WARM HANDS THAT CAME FINALLY WERE LOST TO HIM ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.
HIS MAJESTY... RYUUKI... I'LL ENTRUST HIM TO YOU, SHUUREI.
AS LONG AS YOU KNOW NOW...
YOU ARE THE CLOSEST ONE TO HIM NOW.


DON'T WANDER AROUND. COME IN!
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU ARE SO UNDERDRESSED.
FOR? THE HANDKERCHIEF?
THIS IS A RETURN GIFT.
Eh?
SHUURE!
WHAT?

AH...
HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT HARD ABOUT IT...?
PREPARING A RETURN GIFT FOR THE FIRST PRESENT THAT HE'S RECEIVED...
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
WAIT! DON'T TELL ME THIS IS SOME NATIONAL TREASURE?
HOW DOES IT LOOK?
IT'S VERY PRETTY.
THANKS.
WAIT...


BEAUTIFUL!
IT...IT'S THE HAIRPIN HE WAS REFERRING TO, RIGHT?
HIS FRANK NATURE IS THE MOST FRIGHTENING PART OF HIM...
AH
?
HURRY AND COME IN!
OH, FORGET IT, I GIVE UP!
I'LL PLAY THE ERHU FOR YOU.


From that night on, Ryuuki, the emperor of Saiunkoku,
Is no longer alone.
OOPS



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SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI

SIDE CHAPTER

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SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI

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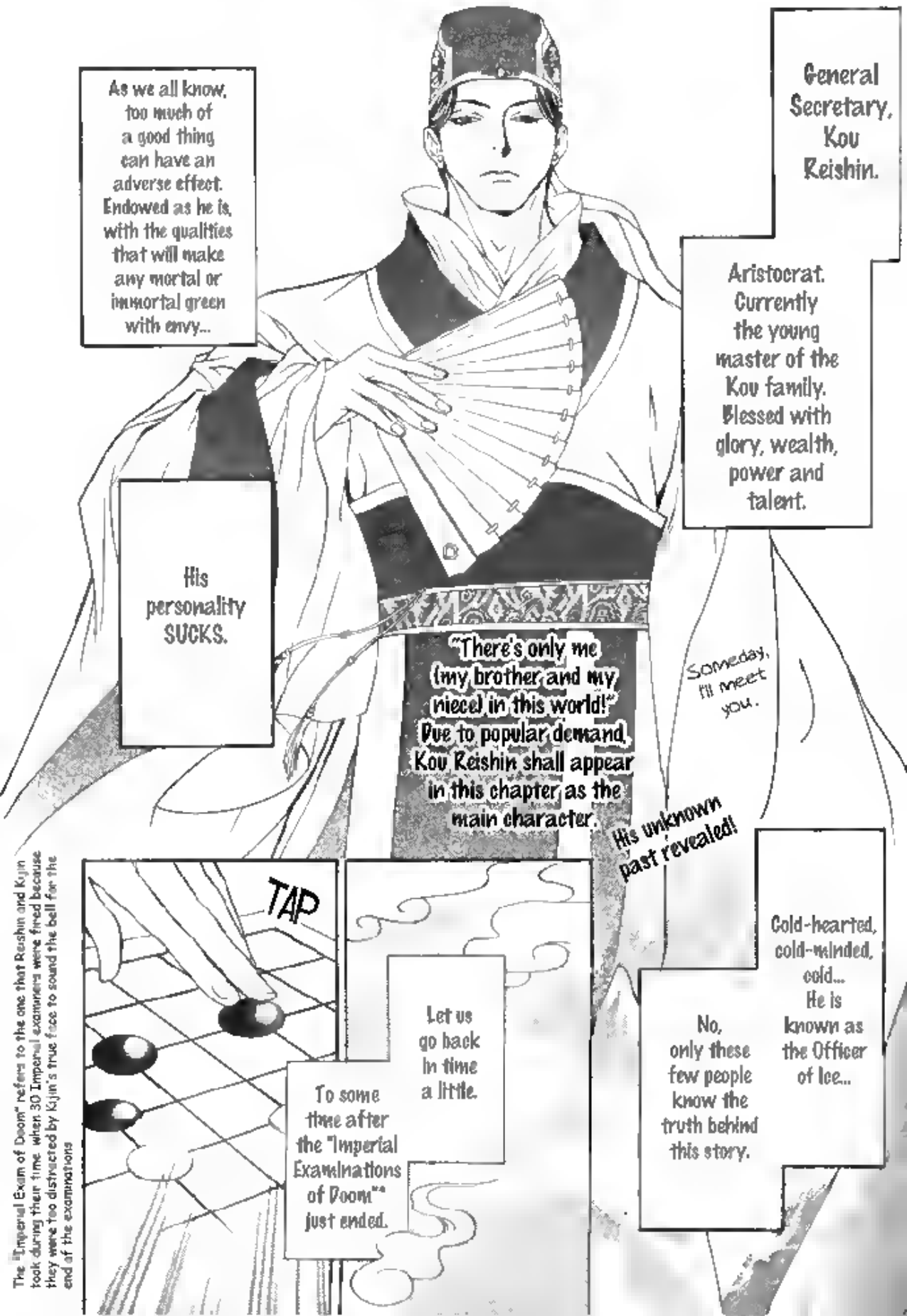
EXTRA STORY

SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI
EXTRA CHAPTER


As we all know, too much of a good thing can have an adverse effect. Endowed as he is, with the qualities that will make any mortal or immortal green with envy...
General Secretary, Kou Reishin.
Aristocrat. Currently the young master of the Kou family. Blessed with glory, wealth, power and talent.
His personality SUCKS.
"There's only me (my brother and my niece) in this world!" Due to popular demand, Kou Reishin shall appear in this chapter as the main character.
Someday, I'll meet you.
His unknown past revealed!
TAP
Let us go back in time a little.
To some time after the "Imperial Examinations of Doom"* just ended.
No, only these few people know the truth behind this story.
Cold-hearted, cold-minded, cold... He is known as the Officer of Ice...

The "Imperial Exam of Doom" refers to the one that Reishin and Kijin took during their time when 30 Imperial examiners were fired because they were too distracted by Kijin's true face to sound the bell for the end of the examinations

A VICTORY IS A VICTORY. NOW AS YOU PROMISED, YOU MUST DO AS I SAY!
SMIRKS
I WON, HOUJYUU.
The young Kou Reishin.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A DESPICABLE MOVE. ALL THAT JUST TO WIN...
I don't recognise this game!
And Tei Yuusyun.
The young Kou Kijin.
SLAM
EH? DO I HAVE TO?
JOIN US!

IT'S ALRIGHT. WE'RE HERE IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG.
SO, WHY MUST WE CLIMB THIS TREE?
ISN'T HE UP HERE ALREADY ANYWAY?
REISHIN, YOU KNOW ABOUT YUUSYUN'S LEG PROBLEM!
RIGHT, YUUSYUN?
YES. FEEL HONORED.
EVIL GRIN
WHY?

I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO GET THIS HIGH.
HEH, DON'T MENTION IT. LOOK THERE!
THANKS, REISHIN.
AH... THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL SCENE.
RIGHT, RIGHT?
ISN'T SHE CUTE??
THAT ROUNDED FACE, THOSE TINY LIMBS...
SHE'S SO... CUTE...
REI-SHIN,
THAT GIRL IS...
Ah! We're falling!!
thump
IDIOT! DON'T STICK YOUR ENTIRE BODY OUT!!
thump
Ahhh!!!
CRASH
Ah!
Ouch ...

I'M FINE. LOOK, THE BOTH OF THEM PROTECTED ME.
SHUUREI?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
Seimei did this for Shuurei, too!
PAIN, PAIN, BE GONE!
ENVIOUS
YUUSYUN, YOU JERK!
AM I HEAVY?
IT'S ALRIGHT!
REISHIN SAMA, TOO, PLEASE ...
AH! WHY ARE YOU STICKING SO CLOSE TO SHUUREI?
IF YOU DON'T MIND, MASTER HAS INVITED ALL OF YOU TO JOIN HIM FOR TEA.
HOLD ON TO MY SHOULDER.
DOES YOUR LEG HURT?
W-wait, Houjyuu!
I... I'm not mentally prepared yet....
WHAT A BRIGHT FUTURE HE WILL HAVE, THIS YOUNG MAN...
I'M GOING.
Slowly
AND THIS YOUNG SIR, TOO...
COMPLETELY UNAFFECTED

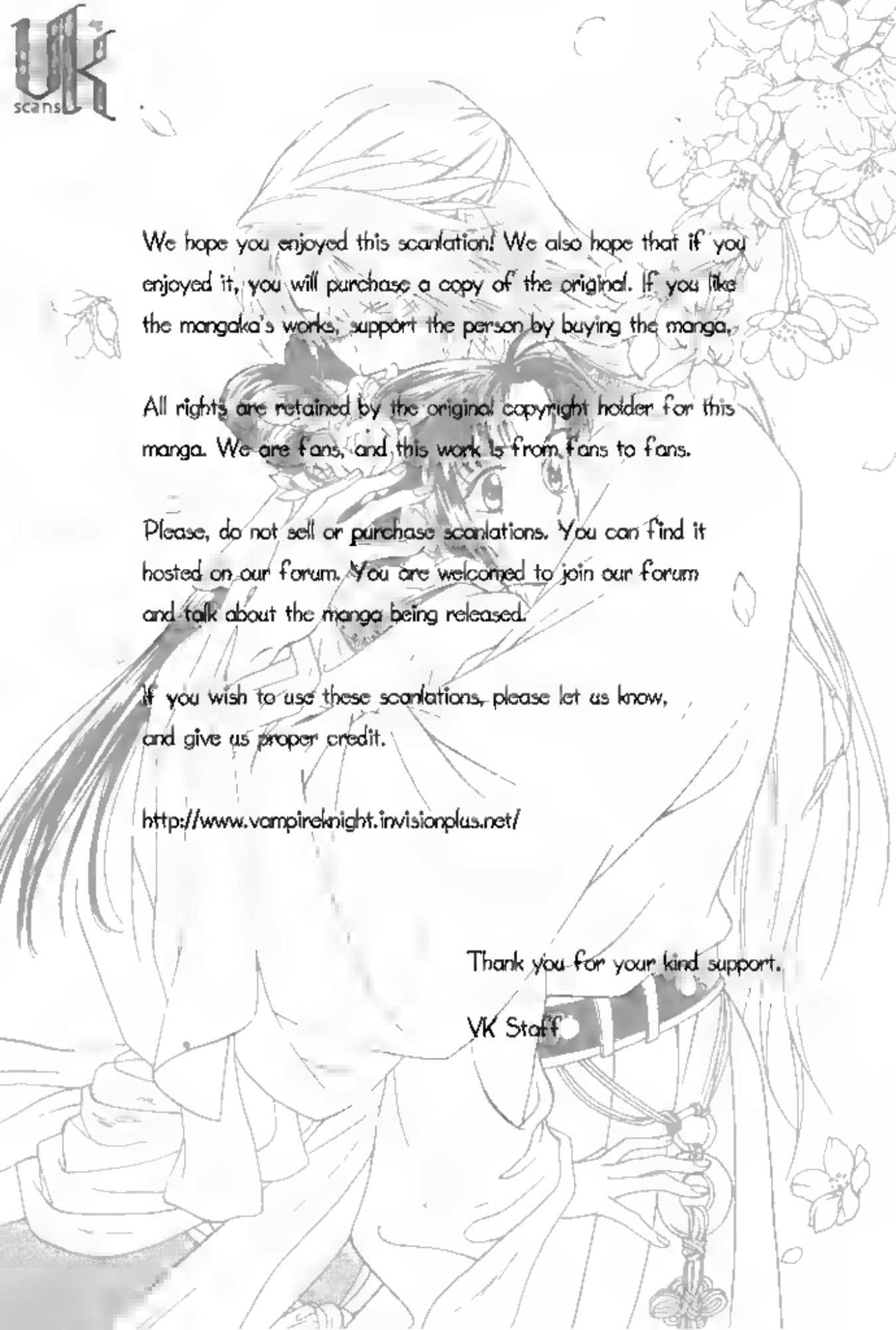
You can almost see his tail already...
WHAT A RARE SIGHT ...
WAGS WAGS
I'M GLAD HE'S NOT "PEDOPHILLIC", AFTER ALL.
OH, SO, IT'S HIS BROTHER'S FAMILY.
STOMP
YES, BROTHER! ♡
DASH
REI-SHIN?
DON'T DILLY DALLY. GET OVER HERE.
!
BROTHER?
JEALOUS
STARE
STARE
STARE
CHILL
shiver
DO YOU WANT SOME BUNS?
THANK YOU, I'LL HAVE SOME.
NERVOUS
YOUNG LADY, I THINK THAT UNCLE OVER THERE WILL LIKE SOME BUNS, TOO.

GRAB
TRIPLE
SHUUREI!!
MARRY ME!!
OKAY?
ALRIGHT?!
UNCLE!
PLEASE, EAT.
UNCLE.
ACTUALLY, REISHIN DID TELL ME THAT HE WOULD BRING HIS FRIENDS HOME TODAY TO INTRODUCE US.
WELCOME, BOTH OF YOU.
...
HE'S STILL JUST A PERVERT, AFTER ALL.
I can't look at this any longer
SMILES
Please, have some tea
I HOPE YOU CAN STILL HELP WATCH OUT FOR THAT CHILD FROM NOW ON.
Shuurei
Come, Miss Ts's time for your nap.
I SUPPOSE THAT IT IS THANKS TO THE BOTH OF YOU.
MY BROTHER HAS CHANGED A LOT RECENTLY.
Friends?

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HIM AGAIN.
EVEN SO, HE'S AN IMPORTANT FRIEND OF MINE.
FROM THEN ON, REISHIN'S UNREQUITED LOVE JUST GOT WORSE.
HE HAS ALREADY MORPHED INTO A RETARD WHO DOESN'T WANT SHUUREI TO HATE HIM OVER THE TINIEST THINGS, OR EVEN TO LET SHUUREI KNOW OF HIS EXISTENCE.
LIKE THE "DELICIOUS" TEA MADE BY SHOUKA-SAMA THAT DAY,
WHAT WE SAW WAS UNFORGET-TABLE.
CHOKE
YUUS-YUN!!
YUUSYUN, ARE YOU THERE!!?
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
GIVE ME A FULL REPORT OF WHAT'S GOING ON WITH SHUUREI AT THE SA PROVINCE. NOT A DETAIL MISSING!
REISHIN, LONG TIME NO...
INCORRIGIBLE JERK ...

REISHIN, WHAT SHOULD BE THE FIRST THING YOU TELL ME WHEN YOU SEE ME?
ONE, I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU'RE FINE.
TWO, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR MARRIAGE.
THREE, I'M SORRY FOR NOT WRITING TO YOU.
FOUR, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
FIVE, WELCOME BACK.
...
WEL...
YES, WELL DONE!
WELCOME BACK ...
RIGHT?
NEXT, PLEASE, REARRANGE THE REMAINING FOUR OPTIONS INTO A PASSAGE THAT SHOWS HOW HAPPY YOU ARE TO SEE ME BACK SAFELY, AND THEN PRESENT IT TO ME.
I'LL TELL YOU HOW SHUUREI IS DOING AFTER I'M HAPPY WITH YOUR ANSWER.
Kou Reishin. That love of his that causes so much trouble both to himself and the people around him is really... too much of a burden.
Not done yet?
UH ...
UH ...

(SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI EXTRA CH / END)



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